SATURDAY
April 13, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
22 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 55 • No. 89

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

11 YEARS OF UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION

21 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

ACCREDITED WITH GRADE A+ NAAC

REVA UNIVERSITY
Bengaluru, India

Nurturing Dreams
Igniting Futures

Scan the QR code
and Start your journey today!

- Industry-Aligned Curriculum
- NIRF Ranked-Innovation Band (51-100)
- Alignment with SDGs
- 450+ Recruitment Partners
- NEP 2020 Compliant
- Learn and Earn Opportunity
- 45+ International Collaborations
- 205+ Digital Classrooms to Support Hybrid Learning
- World-Class Amenities

- Engineering
- Design
- Commerce & Management Studies
- REVA Business School
- Legal Studies
- Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences
- Architecture
- Science & Technology
- Performing Arts & Indic Studies

Call 90211 90211

Apply Online @ reva.edu.in

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

REVA University, Rukmini Knowledge Park,
Kattigenahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru,
Karnataka 560064

J BG-BGE

SATURDAY
April 13, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
22 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 55 • No. 89

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

MYANMAR CRISIS

India moves staff out of consulate in Sittwe

NEWS » PAGE 12

ISRAEL BRACES UP

West Asia on edge amid fears of Iran's counter-strike

WORLD » PAGE 14

RELIEF FOR MIGRANTS

EC eases voting norms in Jammu, Udhampur

NEWS » PAGE 11

ASER 2023

Data for better education, a brighter future

Outcomes must be used for corrective action

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

SECOND WIN

Kuldeep and McGurk star for Delhi Capitals

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

Kharge's appeal to people

KALABURAGI
Terming his defeat in the last Lok Sabha election on his home turf of Kalaburagi as an act of "deception", AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge has called upon the people to "avenge" his defeat by electing Congress candidates in this polls.
» Page 6

Rahul Gandhi to campaign in Mandya, Kolar

BENGALURU
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will campaign for the party candidates in Mandya and Kolar Lok Sabha constituencies on April 17. » Page 6

47 minors forced into begging rescued in city

BENGALURU
In a coordinated effort between the city police and the Child Welfare Committee, 47 minor children, forced into begging, have been rescued.
» Page 2

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE J2

'BJP has an edge, but a tough fight is possible'

Satisfaction levels with the NDA government remain significant but numbers have come down since the 2019 pre-poll survey; while 48% respondents back Modi, 27% back Rahul Gandhi for PM

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Three weeks before the 2024 general election was to commence, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) enjoyed a comfortable 12 percentage point lead over the rival alliance, INDIA, according to the CSDS-Lokniti pre-poll survey.

The Narendra Modi factor continues to play a major role in providing the NDA with its advantage. However, livelihood-related issues are emerging as major concerns in this election. Dissatisfaction over unemployment and inflation among sections of society indicates that a tough fight is on the cards.

While a significant share of people continues to be satisfied with the NDA government, the numbers have come down compared to the 2019 pre-poll survey. Before the 2019 polls, 65% said they were "somewhat" or "fully" satisfied with the government. In 2024, the share of such respondents has come down to 57%. The share of those "somewhat" or "fully" dissatisfied has increased from 30% to 39%. Notably, the degree of satisfaction was markedly lower among the southern regions compared to the north and the west.

A matter of choice

Excerpts from CSDS-Lokniti survey show the reasons for electing or rejecting the NDA government for a third term

Reason for re-electing the incumbent government	%	Reason for not electing the incumbent government	%
Good work	42	Increasing unemployment	32
Welfare schemes	18	Price rise/inflation	20
Modi is a great leader	10	Falling/decreasing income	11
The most admired work of Modi's government	**%**	**The least popular initiative of Modi's government**	**%**
Ayodhya temple	23	Price rise/inflation	24
Related to employment	9	Increasing unemployment	24
Poverty alleviation	8	Poverty	10

Loyal base: BJP supporters swear by the welfare schemes undertaken by the government. PTI

THE HINDU CSDS-LOKNITI Pre-poll Survey 2024

Three factors
The decrease in satisfaction stems from inflation, increasing unemployment and poverty – the top three "least popular initiatives" of the Modi government, according to the survey. Especially, if only voters favouring the Opposition were considered, more than half of them cited these three factors as "least liked work of Mr. Modi". "Ayodhya Ram Mandir" was chosen by many as this government's "most admired work". Especially among NDA voters, one in three chose the construction of the temple as the "most admired work of Mr. Modi".

Unemployment, price rise and falling income were also the top three reasons chosen by respondents for not giving the government another chance. As opposed to this, "good work", welfare schemes and "Modi is a great leader" were the top three reasons given for giving the NDA another chance.

Overall, the survey indicates that the BJP is heading into the 2024 election with a healthy lead, although questions about its performance have left the field open.

Close to 48% of voters continue to back Mr. Modi as their choice for Prime Minister in the pre-poll survey, with 27% choosing Congress MP Rahul Gandhi. Close to 56% of respondents trust "a lot" or "somewhat" Mr. Modi's guarantees, with 49% saying the same about Mr. Gandhi's guarantees. Notably, while Mr. Modi's guarantees were trusted more by the richer households, the middle-class placed similar trust in both.

MORE REPORTS ON » PAGES 9 & 10

Narendra Modi

Time is 'not far' for J&K to get Statehood, says Modi

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi focused on the promise to restore Statehood and hold Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir at a rally for the Lok Sabha election on Friday, though he did not offer any concrete timeline for the same. Instead, he extolled the positive impact of the abrogation of Article 370 and targeted the Opposition INDIA bloc's leaders for their "Mughal mindset".

"The time is not far for the Assembly election and restoration of Statehood to J&K. People will soon have their Ministers and legislators. It's through them that people will fulfil their desires and dreams and walk on a new path of development," he said at a rally in the Udhampur-Doda constituency in Jammu.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Rameshwaram Cafe bomber, conspirator arrested in Kolkata

In the net: An accused in the Bengaluru cafe blast case being produced at court by NIA officials, in Kolkata. PTI

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

In a significant breakthrough, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested the alleged bomber and chief conspirator in Bengaluru's Rameshwaram Cafe blast case from a hotel near Kolkata early on Friday.

The arrested persons have been identified as Abdul Matheen Ahmed Taahaa, 30, the alleged chief conspirator in the case, and Mussavir Hussain Shazib, 30, the alleged bomber. The blast at the restaurant in Brookfield on March 1 had left nine injured. The NIA announced a reward of ₹10 lakh for information leading to their arrest.

The duo came under the radar of security agencies in 2020, when they were accused in the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Al Hind module case busted in Bengaluru. The module wanted allegedly to start an IS-style insurgency from the jungles of south India, and had spread its tentacles in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. While others in the case were arrested, the duo slipped away and had been on the run.

The duo, hailing from Thirthahalli in Shivamogga, in southern Karnataka, allegedly put together a module of youth they radicalised in their hometown. The "Thirthahalli module" was also allegedly involved in a pro-terror graffiti case in Mangaluru in 2020, an IED trial blast in Shivamogga and cooker blast in Mangaluru in 2022.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12
RELATED REPORTS » PAGES 2 & 12

Cause for concern

Pollution: Untreated industrial waste and detergent in sewage lead to toxic foam as seen in the new canal built for the flow of treated water by the side of the Vrishabhavati reservoir at Byramangala in Bidadi taluk of Ramanagara district. K. MURALI KUMAR

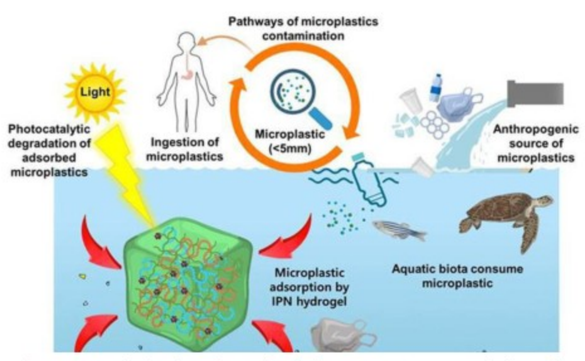
IISc researchers design novel hydrogel to remove microplastics from water

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have designed a sustainable hydrogel to remove microplastics from water.

According to the IISc, microplastics pose a great threat to health as these tiny plastic debris can enter our bodies through the water we drink and increase the risk of illnesses.

The hydrogel designed by the researchers has a unique intertwined polymer network that can bind the contaminants and degrade them using UV light irradiation.



Safe water: The hydrogel can bind the contaminants and degrade them using ultra violet light irradiation, says the IISc study.

Scientists have previously tried using filtering membranes to remove microplastics. However, the membranes can become clogged with these tiny particles, rendering them unsustainable. Instead, the IISc team led by Suryasarathi Bose, Professor at the Department of Materials Engineering, decided to turn to 3D hydrogels.

Microplastics pose a great threat to health, according to researchers

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 2

HC proposes change to rules on suspension of advocates for boycotting court work

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has proposed amendment to its rules to treat strike/boycott of courts by advocates as interference with the administration of justice and to authorise the Chief Justice to suspend advocates who resort to strike from practising in any court in the State for a particular period.

An amendment in this regard is being proposed in the draft of the "rules laying down the conditions subject to which an advocate shall be permitted to practice in the High Court and the courts subordinate thereto (Amendment) Rules, 2024," which was notified last month.

What draft rules say
According to the draft rules, the advocates/association of advocates, will have to address a written representation to the Chief Justice or the Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) in case of any grievance/complaints.

The GRC would comprise the Chief Justice, two senior judges of the High Court (one each from the service and from the Bar), the Advocate-General, the chairman, Karnataka State Bar Council, the president of the Bar association, Administrative Judge of the High Court and the Principal District and Sessions Judge.

The plan is to treat strike/boycott of courts by advocates as interference with the administration of justice

Hearing grievances
The draft rules state that the GRC is empowered to hear the grievances of the advocates/association of advocates who intend to resort to strike/boycott or doing acts interfering with the administration of justice.

In the event of the erring advocates/association of advocates not abiding by any advice for amicable resolution, the GRC would be at liberty to submit a report to the Chief Justice for initiation of appropriate proceedings, including proceedings under the Contempt of Courts Act against the advocates concerned, state the draft rules.

If proceeding under the Contempt of Courts Act is registered, and if the Chief Justice, pending such proceedings, is of the view that the acts of the advocate(s) amount to interfering in the administration of justice, may order for suspension of the right to practice of such advocate (s) in any court for a period co-terminus with the period of proceedings initiated under the Contempt of Courts Act, it has been proposed in the draft rules.

Revoking suspension
The Chief Justice is also vested with the power to revoke such suspension in appropriate circumstances.

On conviction of advocates under the Contempt of Courts Act, the Chief Justice may suspend right to practice of the advocate(s) concerned for a period specified in the order in the contempt of court proceedings.

Inflation slowed, yet no relief on food bills

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation moderated to a 10-month low of 4.85% in March from 5.1% in February but food inflation remained sticky at 8.52%, little changed from the 8.66% recorded in the previous month as price rise accelerated in cereals and meat, while vegetables, pulses, spices and eggs remained in double-digit inflation.

While inflation for urban consumers cooled significantly from 4.8% in February to 4.14% in March, rural consumers had it harder as they experienced a slightly higher inflation of 5.45% in March compared with 5.34% in the previous month.

This trend was visible in the extent of food price rise as well, as it accelerated from 8.3% in February to 8.6% in March for rural India, while the food inflation for urban consumers dropped from 9.2% in February to 8.35% last month.

On a month-on-month basis, there was no change in the Consumer Price Index but the food price index inched up about 0.2%.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

GETTY IMAGES

How unflinching Sumit Nagal hooked the Indian tennis fan

The 26-year-old has risen from the sporting abyss — climbing more than 400 spots in a little over a year to reach World No. 93 — after a long, hard battle with injury and illness. This has led to fans emotionally investing in his journey through the unforgiving world of top-flight tennis

N. Sudarshan

In November 2023, a short 23-second clip of Sumit Nagal's successful match-point against Italian Stefano Travaglia in the semifinals of the Helsinki ATP Challenger was having an unusually long shelf life on X (formerly Twitter). Instead of being sucked into the social media vortex, it was widely shared, for Nagal was on the cusp of breaking into the coveted ATP top-100.

Underneath the post, though, was an innocuous comment that read: "Greatest Indian male singles player of all time? Who is close to him in the past?" To the average Indian sports fan, the question would have been borderline blasphemous, for the country has produced stalwarts such as Ramanathan Krishnan, Vijay Amritraj and Ramesh Krishnan, to name a few.

A deeper malaise

Seen differently, the ignorance could have also been indicative of a deeper malaise that has afflicted Indian men's singles tennis. If one has to time-travel more than three decades to find the last great, how do you expect spectators to be engaged and knowledgeable?

Over the last four months however, Nagal has taken small, but encouraging, steps towards erasing this story of extreme apathy, being more than just an object of curiosity and providing that emotional hook for many an Indian tennis fan.

The 26-year-old has broken into the top-100 for the first time, beaten two top-40 players, including the then World No. 27 Alexander Bublik in the first round of the Australian Open, and has qualified for two ATP Masters in Indian Wells (lucky loser) and Monte Carlo.

The win over Bublik was the first by an Indian over a seeded player at a Slam since Ramesh Krishnan beat World No. 1 Mats Wilander at the 1989 Australian Open. Nagal even won a round in Monte Carlo, overcoming World No. 38 Matteo Arnaldi in three sets – which is set to carry him into the top-80, a new career-high – before losing a tough three-setter to World No. 7 Holger Rune.

> He always had the tennis... He is older now, a lot more mature and knows his game a lot better. So all things combined, he is having the best season of his life
>
> **ZEESHAN ALI**
> India's Davis Cup coach

To be fair, Nagal's exploits are not a patch on what is considered top-draw in global tennis parlance. What has excited Indian fans however is his rise from the sporting abyss over the last year and a half – he began 2023 ranked 502 in the world – and his new-found consistency.

"The last few years I have lost so much time, this is the best I could ask for," Nagal said in Monte Carlo. "I have been playing a lot of matches and I am very happy that I have played the tournaments I want to play in."

Nagal first shot into the limelight way back in 2015 when he won the Wimbledon junior doubles title. In 2017, he secured his first Challenger title, at the Bengaluru Open, and in 2019 came his second, in Buenos Aires. And when he qualified for the 2019 US Open and took a set off Roger Federer on his Major debut under the glitzy New York night sky, he seemed set to reach for the stars.

But multiple bouts of Covid and a hip injury that required surgery in November 2021 set him back, and in 2022 he lost more matches than he won (18 to 17).

Emerging from darkness

"I was in a very dark place where I was not enjoying tennis," Nagal told ATPTour.com last May. "I was always asking myself, 'Why me? I didn't play for seven or eight months, then I played again for four weeks and I'm out again for six weeks. What else do I need to do?' I couldn't find answers."

Things eventually fell into place in 2023, when he put together a full season, reached four Challenger finals and won two (Rome and Tampere). He even overcame a financial crunch, and this February, he triumphed at the Chennai Challenger, defeating the highly rated Italian Luca Nardi – who went on to beat Novak Djokovic at Indian Wells – to enter the top-100.

"The biggest thing is that he has worked a lot on his fitness," says India's Davis Cup coach Zeeshan Ali, in a conversation with *The Hindu*. "He always had the tennis, the big shots; and over a period of time, he has worked on his serves and become a lot more aggressive from the baseline.

"[But] all of the hitting comes from being physically stronger. And the results are showing. He is older now, a lot more mature and knows his game a lot better. So all things combined, he is having the best season of his life."

> The first thing that any coaching staff will focus on is to keep the guy injury-free. When that happens, you will see things standing out — he's serving to a spot, staying aggressive and being very lively around the court
>
> **SOMDEV DEVVARMAN**
> Mentor and former World No. 62

At 5'10", Nagal is short by tennis standards. What he lacks in height, and by extension a booming serve, he makes up for with his fluid movement and groundstrokes. That is perhaps why he loves clay, is adept on hard and doesn't prefer grass.

Somdev Devvarman, who peaked at No. 62 in singles more than a decade ago and was of a similar build, tells *The Hindu* that Nagal doesn't have to reinvent his game to excel.

"There have always been a good amount of short players who have made it," reckons Devvarman, who has taken up a mentorship role with Nagal. "I'm not even talking about the top top players, but a Dudi Sela, Radu Albot, Diego Schwartzman, Sebastian Baez, etc.

"Nagal just has to learn how to hold serve in simpler fashion. It also comes to the style of points that you're constructing. And secondly, all these guys do incredibly well on return. So they keep themselves alive by making sure they have a few opportunities to break every set. And that can keep any player imbalanced."

Cautionary tales

Indian tennis, though, is replete with cautionary tales. The last two men to break into the top-100, Yuki Bhambri and Prajnesh Gunneswaran, didn't stay there for long, hampered as they were by chronic injuries. Nagal has also been injury-prone, but the last season-and-a-half has shown what he is capable of when his mind and body are in sync.

"For someone like Sumit, the first thing that any coaching staff will focus on is to keep the guy injury-free," opines Devvarman. "When that happens, you will see things standing out – he's serving to a spot, staying aggressive and being very lively around the court. On return games, he will put a lot of balls back. So he just starts using his game really well to make sure that the forehand, his biggest weapon, has the ability to shine."

World tennis is also an unforgiving place. The rolling 52-week ranking system requires players to match previous year's results just to maintain their status. Then comes the improvement in performances, which makes the sport relentless and grinding.

"Firstly, I'll give him a lot of credit for hanging in there because he's been playing on the circuit for a good 8-10 years and it's only now that he's starting to see success," says Zeeshan. "Now it's a question of building from where he is. It's [going to be] a different level of tennis, playing the Masters events where every match is probably against a top-100 guy.

"He needs to have one or two really good tournaments where he wins a couple of rounds. If he is losing in the first round, it won't help him jump very high. To crack the top-50, you need to do more than just play these tournaments. That's what Sumit is going to be aiming for."

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	36	9,725	18
2	Jannik Sinner	22	8,710	20
3	Carlos Alcaraz	20	8,645	18
4	Daniil Medvedev	28	7,165	19
5	Alexander Zverev	26	5,415	26
6	Andrey Rublev	26	4,890	24
7	Holger Rune	20	3,795	23
8	Hubert Hurkacz	27	3,665	24
9	Grigor Dimitrov	32	3,540	24
10	Casper Ruud	25	3,465	24
11	Alex de Minaur	25	3,355	25
12	Stefanos Tsitsipas	25	3,175	25
13	Taylor Fritz	26	2,765	25
14	Ben Shelton	21	2,490	27
15	Ugo Humbert	25	2,425	29

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 93 ▲ 2 Spots

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 349 ▼▲ No change

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	22	10,835	19
2	Aryna Sabalenka	25	8,045	17
3	Coco Gauff	20	7,205	19
4	Elena Rybakina	24	5,848	19
5	Jessica Pegula	30	4,870	22
6	Maria Sakkari	28	4,195	25
7	Qinwen Zheng	21	3,995	21
8	Marketa Vondrousova	24	3,895	16
9	Ons Jabeur	29	3,658	23
10	Jelena Ostapenko	26	3,438	23
11	Daria Kasatkina	26	3,313	25
12	Karolina Muchova	27	2,965	11
13	Beatriz Haddad Maia	27	2,920	25
14	Jasmine Paolini	28	2,865	29
15	Danielle Collins	30	2,639	18

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 255 ▼ 16 spots

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 311 ▼ 2 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	31	22	5	4	75	24	51	71
2	Liverpool	31	21	8	2	72	30	42	71
3	Man. City	31	21	7	3	71	31	40	70
4	Tottenham	31	18	6	7	65	45	20	60
5	Aston Villa	32	18	6	8	66	49	17	60
6	Man. United	31	15	4	12	45	46	-1	49
7	West Ham	32	13	9	10	52	56	-4	48
8	Newcastle	31	14	5	12	65	52	13	47
9	Chelsea	30	12	8	10	55	52	3	44
10	Brighton	31	11	10	10	51	49	2	43
11	Wolves	31	12	6	13	44	49	-5	42
12	Bournemouth	31	11	8	12	45	55	-10	41
13	Fulham	32	11	6	15	47	51	-4	39
14	Crystal Palace	31	7	9	15	36	54	-18	30
15	Brentford	32	7	8	17	45	58	-13	29
16	Everton *	31	9	8	14	32	42	-10	27
17	N. Forest *	32	7	8	17	40	56	-16	25
18	Luton Town	32	6	7	19	45	65	-20	25
19	Burnley	32	4	7	21	32	67	-35	19
20	Sheffield	31	3	7	21	30	82	-52	16

* Everton deducted eight points and Forest deducted four points following breaches of the PL's Profitability and Sustainability Rules

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	31	26	4	1	75	15	60	82
2	AC Milan	31	21	5	5	60	34	26	68
3	Juventus	31	18	8	5	45	24	21	62
4	Bologna	31	16	10	5	45	25	20	58
5	Roma	31	16	7	8	56	35	21	55
6	Atalanta	30	15	5	10	55	34	21	50
7	Napoli	31	13	9	9	48	38	10	48
8	Lazio	31	14	4	13	37	34	3	46
9	Torino	31	11	11	9	31	29	2	44
10	Fiorentina	30	12	7	11	42	35	7	43
11	Monza	31	11	9	11	34	41	-7	42
12	Genoa	31	9	11	11	34	38	-4	38
13	Cagliari	31	7	9	15	32	52	-20	30
14	Lecce	31	6	11	14	26	48	-22	29
15	Udinese	31	4	16	11	30	47	-17	28
16	Empoli	31	7	7	17	25	47	-22	28
17	Verona	31	6	9	16	28	42	-14	27
18	Frosinone	31	6	8	17	38	61	-23	26
19	Sassuolo	31	6	7	18	36	59	-23	25
20	Salernitana	31	2	9	20	25	64	-39	15

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	30	23	6	1	66	20	46	75
2	Barcelona	30	20	7	3	61	34	27	67
3	Girona	30	20	5	5	62	36	26	65
4	Atletico Madrid	30	18	4	8	56	35	21	58
5	Athletic Bilbao	30	16	8	6	50	28	22	56
6	Real Sociedad	30	13	10	7	43	31	12	49
7	Valencia	30	12	8	10	33	32	1	44
8	Real Betis	30	10	12	8	36	36	0	42
9	Osasuna	30	11	6	13	36	43	-7	39
10	Villarreal	30	10	8	12	48	53	-5	38
11	Getafe	30	9	11	10	37	43	-6	38
12	Las Palmas	30	10	7	13	29	33	-4	37
13	Alaves	30	8	8	14	26	36	-10	32
14	Sevilla	30	7	10	13	37	44	-7	31
15	Real Mallorca	30	6	13	11	25	35	-10	31
16	Rayo Vallecano	30	6	12	12	25	38	-13	30
17	Celta Vigo	30	6	10	14	32	44	-12	28
18	Cadiz	30	4	13	13	21	40	-19	25
19	Granada	30	2	8	20	30	60	-30	14
20	Almeria	30	1	10	19	28	60	-32	13

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Leverkusen	28	24	4	0	69	19	50	76
2	Bayern	28	19	3	6	80	36	44	60
3	Stuttgart	28	19	3	6	64	34	30	60
4	RB Leipzig	28	16	5	7	64	33	31	53
5	Dortmund	28	15	8	5	55	33	22	53
6	E. Frankfurt	28	10	12	6	43	36	7	42
7	FC Augsburg	28	9	9	10	45	46	-1	36
8	Hoffenheim	28	10	6	12	48	53	-5	36
9	SC Freiburg	28	10	6	12	40	52	-12	36
10	Heidenheim	28	8	9	11	41	49	-8	33
11	M'gladbach	28	7	10	11	49	54	-5	31
12	Werder Bremen	28	8	7	13	36	44	-8	31
13	Union Berlin	28	8	5	15	25	43	-18	29
14	Wolfsburg	28	7	7	14	34	47	-13	28
15	Bochum	28	5	11	12	33	58	-25	26
16	Mainz	28	4	11	13	26	46	-20	23
17	Cologne	28	4	10	14	23	49	-26	22
18	Darmstadt	28	2	8	18	28	71	-43	14

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Kane Williamson	859	919
2	Joe Root	824	923
3	Babar Azam	768	882
3	Daryl Mitchell	768	804
5	Steve Smith	757	947
6	Rohit Sharma	751	813
7	Yashasvi Jaiswal	740	740
8	Dimuth Karunaratne	739	783
9	Virat Kohli	737	937
10	Harry Brook	735	773

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	870	904
2	Josh Hazlewood	847	864
3	Jasprit Bumrah	847	881
4	Kagiso Rabada	834	902
5	Pat Cummins	820	914
6	Nathan Lyon	801	801
7	Ravindra Jadeja	788	899
8	James Anderson	739	903
9	Shaheen Afridi	733	836
10	Kyle Jamieson	729	836

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	824	898
2	Shubman Gill	801	847
3	Virat Kohli	768	909
4	Harry Tector	746	767
4	Rohit Sharma	746	882
6	Daryl Mitchell	728	750
7	David Warner	723	869
8	Pathum Nissanka	711	728
9	Dawid Malan	707	730
10	Rassie van der Dussen	701	796

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Keshav Maharaj	716	741
2	Josh Hazlewood	688	727
3	Adam Zampa	686	695
4	Mohammed Siraj	678	736
5	Jasprit Bumrah	665	838
6	Mohammad Nabi	656	657
7	Shaheen Afridi	650	688
8	Kuldeep Yadav	645	760
9	Trent Boult	643	775
10	Bernard Scholtz	642	642

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	861	910
2	Philip Salt	802	802
3	Mohammad Rizwan	800	875
4	Babar Azam	764	896
5	Aiden Markram	755	796
6	Yashasvi Jaiswal	714	739
7	Rilee Rossouw	689	724
8	Finn Allen	686	723
9	Jos Buttler	680	687
10	Reeza Hendricks	660	674

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Adil Rashid	726	746
2	Wanindu Hasaranga	687	797
3	Akeal Hosein	664	683
4	Axar Patel	660	667
5	Maheesh Theekshana	659	684
5	Ravi Bishnoi	659	699
7	Josh Hazlewood	654	806
7	Tabraiz Shamsi	654	821
9	Mitchell Santner	645	724
9	Rashid Khan	645	816

PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS
thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens
THE HINDU

DEFINING LUXURY

On the beauty map

With terrazzo countertops, and spotlighting for that perfect selfie, beauty departments and stores are changing their design layout

Malini Banerjee

When MAC opened in Kolkata in 2008, it was "marketed as make-up by professionals for professionals and of professionals", remembers make-up artist Abhijit Chanda. The Canadian brand was the first to boast of a make-up studio, where one could by appointment have a make-over done. With gleaming all-black interiors and supercilious make-up artists, MAC felt luxe but almost intimidatingly so.

Chanda and content creator Bianca Contractor (also daughter to celebrity make-up artist Mickey Contractor, who was director of make-up artistry for MAC in India) also agree that that was the 'vibe', and perhaps deliberately so.

Cut to 2024, SS Beauty has opened its largest store in India in an expansive 9,000 sq.ft. space in Kolkata's Quest Mall. Known as the city's only "designer" mall with international labels on the ground floor, from Gucci, Burberry, Michael Kors to Jimmy Choo, the multiple-brand beauty store occupies the first floor of the RP Sanjeev Goenka Group-owned mall.

A diverse range of brands from global powerhouses like Dior, NARS, Armani Beauty, Laura Mercier, Givenchy, Clarins, Lancôme, Kiehl's, Shiseido, Jo Malone, and Tom Ford to Indian cult favourites such as Forest Essentials, Kay Beauty, Colorbar are available at the store. From make-up to skincare, fragrances, grooming for men and haircare, the store feels designed to include rather than exclude.

Pink, a new obsession

Brands like Purplle, Nykaa, Tira Beauty, Tata Cliq Pallette, Sephora and SS Beauty are all using colours to carve out a certain brand identity in this booming retail category. "Purplle uses its design and colour distinctly," says Manju Sara Rajan, editor of *Beautiful Homes*.

Not just that, pink is Nykaa's and SS Beauty's favourite crayon too. Both multi-brand beauty chains use a bright fuchsia pink in their design language. SS Beauty's store in Quest uses the shade more sparingly however with the dominant theme of white, black and gold, and only accents of pink. Its ceilings covered in gold mesh, golden spotlights, gilded fascia and hot pink accents are in sharp contrast to Shopper's Stop usual monochrome colour palette.

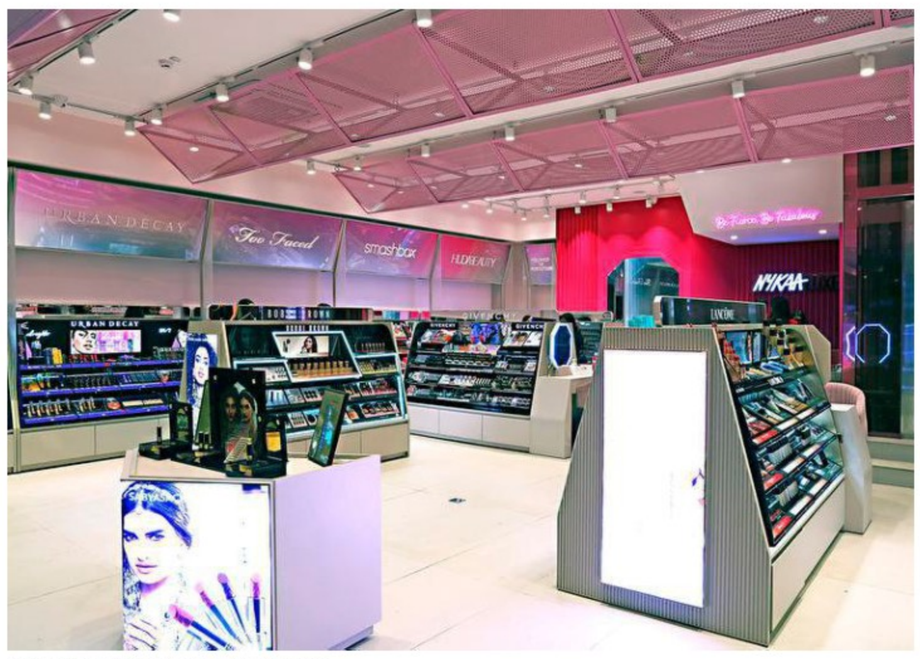
"It felt so grand. And I loved all the gold and the pink," says social media influencer Preeti Sarkar.

Sarkar's other favourite is the neighbourhood Nykaa store which she believes is a game-changer in the world of beauty.

Fast translating its online sales during the pandemic into brick-and-mortar format, Nykaa inaugurated its 175th store in Mumbai's Bandra recently.

Their 'rani pink' logo on black, infinity mirrors and shimmery pink interiors offer a softer take. Unlike SS Beauty's gleaming marble and granite floors, Nykaa's plain cream tiles indicate a more utilitarian approach.

But "black wonderland" Sephora will always be the OG when it comes to buying make-up. The chain which opened to snaking queues in 2015 has a cult following among influencers and MUAs. Telling a different colour story is the hip new Tira Beauty.



Nykaa interiors. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SS Beauty interiors. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Owned by Sephora's new distribution partner Reliance Retail Ventures, Tira sets itself apart with its design language.

"It's interesting because they have chosen an entirely different palette, which makes sense because they have to be able to stand out in an already crowded market. And an offline store, especially after the pandemic, is important as consumers want to try out and get a feel of the product," adds Rajan.

Done up in ivory and cream offset with metallic shades in gold and copper and sparse pops of orange, the Tira effect is "young, sexy and fun", says Rajan.

Intelligent design

Designed by London-based studio Dalziel & Pow, known for their work with renowned brands such as Google, Chloe, and Toyota, Tira's thoughtfully planned layout has an 'inviting and non-intimidating ambience" that is already wooing make-up enthusiasts across the board.

Both Mickey and Bianca Contractor love Tira for the experience of the store.

"I felt like I had a lot of room to browse and try out the products," says Bianca.

No wonder since Tira makes it a point to keep a "minimum of four-five ft. distance between aisles to allow for customer movement".

The counters feature a stone marble finish made out of solid acrylic material and terrazzo countertops display the products. The façade features muted natural colour tones with a clay texture finish and the metallic fascia features bronze and nickel PVD coating.

"I don't know how to explain it. It felt like being in Candyland but for make-up," says MUA Vatsala Bhagat. Meanwhile, SS Beauty uses smart backlit mirrors and spotlighting for the perfectly Instagrammable selfie.

At SS Beauty, the Fragrance Bar that occupies a long stretch along the aisle.

The Fragrance Bar that occupies a long stretch along the aisle gives you enough room to discover and browse. Green marble countertops showcase a selection of perfumes from Hugo Boss, Carolina Herrera, and Tom Ford as examples of perfume signatures whether floral, fresh or woody.

Individual brand-specific counters then follow for shoppers to explore further. Sephora too makes it a point to always consider "lighting and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) designing" as a focal point but the standing-room-only store perhaps is more geared towards the shopper who knows their mind.

"When you enter a store, it's like you're entering the brand world, every touchpoint sort of builds up to that moment. So rather than replicating a formula, if each step can be a layered experience, the customer would be keen to stay on. A lot of science and data is applied to product placement, lighting et al so that buyers have the correct experience," says Anahita Kayan, Founder & Creative Director of The Space At 9/2, a multidisciplinary design studio in Kolkata.

REAL ESTATE

SELLING
COMMERCIAL LAND

YELAGIRI HILLS
23.4 Cents of Prime Land on the Highway AT ATHANAVOOR.
Total extent 23.4 cents,
Very Near Athanavoor Bus terminus
9972788866/ 9443737944

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

SELLING
FARMHOUSE / LAND /RESORTS
ECR POONTHANDALAM, 15kms from Mahabalipuram,1Acre380 Ft Mn Rd Frontage, 2.90Crs. WhatsApp: +16193839001

RESIDENTIAL FLAT – RESALE
CHENNAI GUDUVANCHERI Shriram Flats after SRM 703sf 1BHK 29 Lacs 12yrs CCP Lift 10k Rent Income 9884520124

RENTAL
FACTORIES & SITES
NEW INDUSTRIAL SHED
13000 Sqft, SIPCOT INDUSTRIAL GROWTH CENTER, ORAGADAM CHENNAI. FOR RENT
Opp : BOSCH
9841034509 / 8838863571

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/060923/006244

Exciting News! Madavara Metro Station on Tumkur Road - Opening Soon!
Just 10 mins from SkySanjeevini - Hurry up: Book your Home today!

DS MAX
DR. K V SATISH, CHAIRMAN
ISO 9001:2015 COMPANY

DS-MAX SKYSANJEEVINI
TUMKUR ROAD
₹ 45.81 - 72.67 L*
2 & 3-BHK | G + 9 FLOORS

ಸಿಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದೂ ಸಿಟಿಯಿಂದ ದೂರ
JOY OF LIVING

2, 3 & 4-BHK APARTMENTS FOR SALE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/210324/006724	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/150223/005721	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/446/PR/210312/004002	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/151223/006489	PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/150224/006622	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/181122/002151
BEGUR	MYSORE ROAD	K R PURAM	UTTARAHALLI	WHITEFIELD	KOGILU CROSS
NEAR SINGASANDRA METRO STN.	NEAR CHALLAGHATTA METRO STN.	NEAR GARDEN CITY UNIVERSITY	OPP. NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL	10 MINS. HOPEFARM METRO STN.	NR. YELAHANKA METRO STATION
₹ 71.36 L - 1.16 Cr*	₹ 49.63 - 79.66 Lakhs*	₹ 53.70 - 92.38 Lakhs*	₹ 74.97 L - 1.74 Cr*	₹ 45.63 - 93.02 Lakhs*	₹ 76.98 - 84.72 Lakhs*
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/201201/003733	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/220223/005748	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/280222/004739	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/211209/004576	
HOSA ROAD JN.	THANISANDRA	CHANDAPURA	SARJAPURA	YELAHANKA	DODDAGUBBI
5 MINS. BOSCH-ELECTRONIC CITY	10 MINS. MANYATA TECH PARK	10 MINS. BOMMASANDRA METRO	SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE ROAD	NEAR RAJANAKUNTE TOLL	NEAR HENNUR DECATHLON
₹ 50.00 L - 1.15 Cr*	₹ 57.80 - 86.79 Lakhs*	₹ 37.60 - 49.60 Lakhs*	₹ 38.72 - 49.80 Lakhs*	₹ 37.01 - 99.70 Lakhs*	₹ 53.40 - 87.10 Lakhs*

*T & C Apply

ಡಿಎಸ್ ಮ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ FOR PROJECT SPECIFIC INFORMATION 7022 791 222 www.dsmaxproperties.com

Disclaimer: Information provided in this advertisement is for reference only, and all data is sourced internally. The images, illustrations, and artist's impressions used in this advertisement are for representational purposes only. The prices mentioned are indicative and base prices. Any offers, discounts, or incentives mentioned in this advertisement are subject to specific terms and conditions. All taxes, registration charges, stamp duty, and any other statutory payments are applicable as per government regulations. All directions, locations, and landmarks are approximate. Please use reliable resources for accurate travel times. Mentioning a specific product, process, or service does not imply endorsement. Please contact our Sales Team for detailed information about specific projects, pricing, availability, and other inquiries. DS-MAX Properties ensures that all its projects comply with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) and its regulations. **Visit : www.rera.karnataka.gov.in**

BG-BGE

From Page One

IISc researchers design hydrogel to remove microplastics from water

The hydrogel developed by the team consists of three different polymer layers - chitosan, polyvinyl alcohol and polyaniline - intertwined together, making an interpenetrating polymer network (IPN) architecture.

The team infused this matrix with nanoclusters of a material called copper substitute polyoxometalate (Cu-POM). These nanoclusters are catalysts that can use UV light to degrade the microplastics. The combination of the polymers and nanoclusters resulted in a strong hydrogel with the ability to adsorb and degrade large amounts of microplastics. The team found that the hydrogel could remove about 95% and 93% of two types of microplastics in water.

The study has been published in *Nanoscale*.

"Along with treatment or removal of microplastics, another major problem is detection. Because these are very small particles, you cannot see them with the naked eye," said Soumi Dutta, first author of the study published in *Nanoscale*.

To solve this problem, the researchers added a fluorescent dye to the microplastics to track how much was being adsorbed and degraded by the hydrogel under different conditions. "We checked the removal of microplastics at different pH levels of water, different temperatures, and different concentrations of microplastics," said Prof. Dutta.

With the arrest of two elusive kingpins, has the Tirthahalli module been neutralised?

While on the run, the duo had put together the Tirthahalli module, radicalising youth from their hometown

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

In the last four years, the module that came to be called the Tirthahalli Module, is alleged to have carried out two IED blasts in Karnataka – the cooker blast in 2022 in Mangaluru and the blast at The Rameshwaram Cafe in Bengaluru on March 1.

The alleged module was allegedly put together by Abdul Matheen Ahmed Taaha, 30, and Mussavir Hussain Shazib, 30, both hailing from Tirthahalli, both arrested near Kolkata, West Bengal, in connection with The Rameshwaram Cafe blast case. With most of the known associates of the duo already arrested, have their arrests now "neutralised" the Tirthahalli module, is a question security agencies are now looking at.

An outside view of Rameshwaram cafe at Kundalahalli where a blast took place in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Absconding since 2020

The duo had been absconding since 2020, when they were accused in the Islamic State (IS)-inspired Al-Hind module case, where a module sought to start an insurgency like IS from the jungles of South India.

While on the run they put together the Tirthahalli module, radicalising youth from their hometown.

Maaz Muneer Ahmed, Mohammed Shariq, Syed Yasin, Arafath Ali and all their associates have been arrested in multiple terror cases – pro-terror graffiti in Mangaluru in 2020, an IED trial blast in Shivamogga, and a cooker blast in Mangaluru in 2022.

Taaha and Hussain were named as accused in all these cases.

"With the arrest of these two kingpins, all those we know of being members of this module have been arrested and we hope this will neutralise this module. However, the duo have been travelling around the country for the past four years giving agencies a slip. We have seen their footprints in Mumbai, Ratnagiri, Nellore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Assam and now West Bengal. They are highly-motivated people and there is a chance that they may have radicalised and recruited more people in other places where they are known to have been. That will be part of the investigation now," said a senior police official from Karnataka, who has probed multiple cases involving the module.

However, the official added that Abdul Matheen Taahaa and Mussavir Hussain Shazib had used their recruits to carry out terror incidents earlier and Hussain had himself come and planted the IED at the restaurant on March 1, indicating that they may haven't had more expendable recruits.

"This raises hopes that there aren't any left in the module and with the arrest of the duo, the module is neutralised," he said.

The elusive "Colonel"

During the probe into the cases in which the Tirthahalli module is allegedly involved, security agencies have come across a man only referred to as "Colonel", who is yet to be identified.

"We are not sure of the identity of this Colonel who crops up in the probes related to the module. This could be a handler of the module. There are some suspects, including some absconding accused in terror cases. But it could also be one of the two arrested now," a senior official said.

The interrogation of the duo arrested now will focus on unravelling their network, their sources of funding and their possible handlers, an official said.

47 minors forced into begging rescued in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a coordinated effort between the city police and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), a total of 47 minor children, forced into begging, have been successfully rescued.

The operation, which took place at 6.30 a.m. Friday, involved officials from various departments including the Women's Protection Wing (WPW) and Special Inquiry of the Central Crime Branch (CCB), along with police personnel from the Pulakeshi Nagar sub-division.

Reports indicate that among the rescued children, six were under the age of one, while 12 were between the ages of one and three. The rescue operation targeted children engaging in begging near the Hajee Sir Ismail Sait Masjid in Pulakeshi Nagar. Alongside the rescue, authorities also apprehended 36 women believed to be involved in exploiting these minors for begging.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayananda

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayananda stated, "The rescued children have been handed over to the CWC for counseling and rehabilitation. A thorough investigation is under way to verify the backgrounds of the rescued children; and the detained women are being questioned. Cases will be registered under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, based on the violations uncovered."

The rescued children were found to be of varying age groups: six between three and six years old, 16 between six and ten, and seven over the age of ten. Among the rescued minors, there were 19 males and 28 females.

30-year-old man jumps to death from Nayandahalli flyover

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a tragic incident, a 30-year-old man jumped to death from Nayandahalli flyover early on Friday. The deceased has been identified as Naveen. He was working on a contract basis at Karnataka Vidyut Kendra, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL).

According to the Byatarayanapura police, Naveen arrived at the flyover around 8.25 a.m. on his bike and jumped. His body has now been sent to Victoria Hospital.

FIR registered

An FIR has been registered at Byatarayanapura police station.

The police said that Naveen got married about four months ago.

They are investigating the reason behind the death.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

NLSIU announces grant from JSW Group

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Law School of India University (NLSIU) on Friday announced a grant from the JSW Group which will fund the establishment of the 'JSW Centre on the Future of Law,' a research centre. The Centre will anchor academic and policy research. The grant is also allocated for the comprehensive redevelopment and expansion of the University's core Academic Block and Precinct.

The centre on campus will also support curricular interventions that explore the effects of new technologies on the future of the legal system, the legal profession and legal education. While developing new and appropriate models of legal regulation, it will also incubate new technologies that facilitate legal system reform and access to justice.

"Under the leadership of a Centre Director, the Centre will host doctoral and postdoctoral researchers who will engage with multiple stakeholders including governments, domestic and international regulators, academia, civil society and private sector entities," NLSIU said in a press statement on Friday.

The redevelopment of the New Academic Block (NAB) in the southern part of the NLSIU campus in Nagarbhavi will be supported by the grant. "The two-storeyed NAB was originally built in 2014 and accommodates lecture theatres, seminar rooms, office spaces and meeting rooms. The JSW grant will help add four floors and redevelop the available two floors to provide flexible and technologically advanced learning and office spaces, along with collaborative research spaces for faculty, students, and researchers," said a press release from NLSIU.

The release added, "This building will be named as the 'JSW Academic Block' and be seamlessly integrated with the surrounding precinct including the recently redeveloped Shri Narayan Rao Melgiri Memorial National Law Library to create the new academic hub of the university."

Police arrest two ganja peddlers on Mallikarjuna Temple Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Basavanagudi police have arrested two persons who were involved in peddling ganja and seized 47 kg of marijuana worth ₹11.7 lakh from the. The police made arrests based on the information provided to them by informants.

According to a press release, the police, after receiving the information, went to Mallikarjuna Temple Road where they were found the accused selling ganja. They were arrested at the site where they were peddling the drugs.

The police also seized two mobiles. The arrested have been sent to judicial custody.

Extension of Namma Metro services on IPL match days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) will be extending metro services during the Indian Premier League (IPL) matches scheduled to be held in the city on April 15, May 4, 12 and 18.

The BMRCL, in a release, said that its last trains will depart at 11.30 p.m. from all four metro stations.

"Commuters can purchase return journey tickets (paper tickets) from any metro station, from 2 p.m. onwards. This paper ticket is valid at Cubbon Park and M.G. Road Metro station only for a single journey to any other metro station, on the day of issue from 8 p.m. onwards up to the closure of extended services of the day and no tokens will be issued.

Further, the release stated that QR code tickets, smartcards and NCMC cards also can be used as usual.

'Buy in advance'

BMRCL urged commuters to purchase QR tickets in advance of the commencement of the cricket match on WhatsApp, Nammo Metro App or PayTM for a hassle-free return journey.

THE HINDU GROUP

THE HINDU
THE INFORMED VOTER
QUIZ

1. In February, the ECI signed an MoU with the Indian Banks' Association and _____ to enhance its voter outreach and awareness activities for the General Elections of 2024.
2. Which aspect of India's election is slated to witness a ban between 7 a.m. on 19th April and 6:30 p.m. on 1st June, as per the ECI's official notification?
3. Name the app launched by the ECI to be used by the public to report breaches of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) of the General Elections.

Scan the code, take the pledge, participate in the quiz and win exciting gift vouchers

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. 7
2. SVEEP
3. Form 6

Visit forms.thehindu.co.in/informed_voter/terms.html
Read the Terms & Conditions.

Competent Authority for M/s Gold Jewellers, Kundapura and Assistant Commissioner, Kundapura Sub Division, Kundapura,Udupi District - 576201

Tel:08254-200816 Email : ackundapur@gmail.com

NO: MAG CR 6/2024 Date: 11.04.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice to invite claim applications from depositors of **M/s Gold Jewellers, Kundapura** under Section 7(2) of Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment (KPIDFE) Act, 2004.

According to Section 5(1) of KPIDFE Act 2004, Competent Authority for M/s Gold Jewellers, Kundapura and Assistant Commissioner, Kundapura Sub Division, Udupi District has been appointed as the Competent Authority.

Claim forms will be issued in the office of the Competent Authority for **M/s Gold Jewellers, Kundapura and Assistant Commissioner, Kundapura Sub Division, Taluku Adalitha Soudha, Kundapura, Udupi District-576 201** to the depositor/authorized representative/nominee and in the absence of the nominee, the power of attorney holder on production of identity proof and proof of investment such as original copies of Bonds, official letter and PoA documents.

Start date of Submission of Claim Applications is from 29-04-2024, Monday and the last date for submission of applications will be 28-05-2024, Tuesday before 05.30 PM.

Depositor/ in case of death or hospitalization of the depositor, his nominees/heirs have to submit the following document as proof their identity and investment.

Sl.No	Depositors/ Depositor's Nominees	Documents to be Submitted
1.	Depositors	Depositors should submit the documents duly notarised with Notary/Gazetted Officer/and with self-declaration
2.	Nominee	1. Death certificate of the depositor 2. Family tree (To be obtained from Tahsildar) 3. Nominee should self-attest the above documents
3.	Legal Heirs	1. Death Certificate of the depositor 2. Family tree (To be obtained from the Tahsildar) 3. Death certificate of the specific nominee (Specific Nomination of the Death Certificate) 4. Legal heir's Certificate-Court Order 5. Legal Heir should submit self-attested above documents. 6. Consent from other Legal heirs
4.	PoA- Power of Attorney	1. Documents supporting hospitalization of the depositor. (In case of critical illness, a report from Medical Officer should be submitted) 2. Apostilled copy of citizen card and passport in case of depositor residing outside India. 3. For Sl. No. (1) and (2) Notarised Power of Attorney Certificate should be submitted. 4. PoA holder should submit self-attested above documents.
5.	Guardian of Minor	1. Death certificate of depositor 2. Document regarding appointment of guardian 3. Self-attested documents of above

Applicants submitting the claim applications should submit the below mentioned documents as proof of investments in M/s Gold Jewellers, Kundapura.

Sl.No	Depositors/ Depositor's Nominees	Documents to be Submitted
1.	Savings Deposit	1. Copy of front page of pass book with photograph. 2. Savings Deposit Passbook issued by M/s Gold Jewellers, Kundapura. 3. Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. *Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.
2.	Fixed Deposit	1. Copy of front page of pass book with photograph. 2. Deposit Bond/Certificate/Fixed Deposit Certificate/Other 3. Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. *Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self
3.	Cumulative Deposit	1. Copy of front page of pass book with photograph. 2. Cumulative Deposit Certificate 3. Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. *Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.
4.	Recurring Deposit	1. Copy of front page of pass book with photograph. 2. Recurring Deposit Passbook issued by M/s Gold Jewellers, Kundapura. 3. Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. *Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self
5	Supporting Documents	1. Copy of front page of pass book with photograph. 2. Copy of cancelled cheque leaf with depositor's name. *Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.
6	Original Bond / Other Substitute Document issued	1. Copy of front page of pass book with photograph. 2. Bank pass sheets 1 month prior to investment in M/s Gold Jewellers, Kundapura, till March 2024, duly attested by the bank to be furnished.

- **Copy of front page of passbook with photograph** means the passbook of such bank from where the money is transferred for investment in M/s Gold Jewellers, Kundapura.
- Any application received after the last date fixed for submission of claims under Section 7(3) of the KPIDFE Act shall not be accepted under the provisions of the Act.
- Any claim based on concocted documents or forged documents shall be rejected and criminal action will be initiated against such applicants.
- As per Section 7(3) of KPIDFE Act, the time limit for submission of claim applications is from 29-04-2024 (Monday) to 28-05-2024 (Tuesday) from 10.00 A.M. to 05.30 P.M.
- For more information regarding the procedures for submission of applications, applicants may contact the Office of the Competent Authority for M/s Gold Jewellers, Kundapura and Assistant Commissioner, Kundapura Sub Division, Taluku Adalitha Soudha, Kundapura, Udupi District 576 201 in person. For more information call from 10.00 A.M. to 05.30 P.M.to the following telephone No. 08254-200816.
- **Place of Issue/Submission of Claim Application:** Office of the Competent Authority for M/s Gold • Jewellers, Kundapura and Assistant Commissioner, Kundapura Sub Division, Taluku Adalitha Soudha,Kundapura, Udupi District-576 201
- Applicants who have invested in more than one scheme in M/s Gold Jewellers, Kundapura must submit the claims in separate applications.

Competent Authority for M/s Gold Jewellers and Assistant Commissioner, Kundapura Sub Division, Udupi District.

‘A lot of guys with out-and-out raw pace don’t have control; Mayank Yadav looks to have both’

GETTY IMAGES

Tim Southee is one of modern cricket’s most successful seam-and-swing bowlers, with more than 750 international wickets. In this conversation, he talks about India’s latest 150 kmph quick, the state of Test cricket, what leading New Zealand is like, and the best players he has watched and faced

INTERVIEW

Tim Southee

P.K. Ajith Kumar

New Zealand has always produced outstanding swing bowlers – the country’s finest, Richard Hadlee, ranks among the greatest fast-bowlers of all time. Tim Southee has also been remarkably successful and durable, after making his international debut way back in 2008. He played his 100th Test against Australia at Christchurch last month. The New Zealand Test captain, who has 380 Test, 221 ODI and 157 T20I wickets, spoke to *The Hindu* over the phone from Hamilton. Excerpts:

Not too many pace bowlers – bowlers of any style, in fact – have captained in Test cricket. How has the experience been for you?

I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I worked closely with Brendon McCullum when he was captain and then Kane Williamson when he was captain. And I think for most sides there is also a leadership group that does a lot of the stuff. And I have been lucky to have Kane and Tom Latham, two guys that have both captained the side. I enjoy thinking about the game and yes, captaincy can also be challenging at times.

> Bumrah has been a quality player across all three formats, along with Pat Cummins and Kagiso Rabada. Those three bowlers I have a lot of respect for

New Zealand is placed third on the ICC World Test Championship table at the moment. How do you assess your team’s chances of making the final?

We are obviously sitting in a pretty good position. We have got some tough matches coming up in the subcontinent. This is a big year with a lot of Test cricket, it is going to be tough.

You have with Trent Boult formed one of cricket’s finest new-ball partnerships of all time.

We have played a lot of cricket together. We played age-group cricket, domestic cricket, and played all three formats for New Zealand for over 10 years together. We have a pretty good friendship. We knew each other very well. We know each other’s game pretty well, so I think we complement each other extremely well.

What are the factors that you think make Boult one of the most lethal bowlers in the shortest format, especially in the PowerPlay?

His ability to swing the ball obviously has reflected in the amount of wickets he takes in that first over. Sometimes the white ball doesn’t swing for too long, but he really maximises those first few balls where you do get a little bit of movement. His numbers in the first over are incredible. He is very fit, keeps himself reasonably injury-free as well.

India is now producing pace bowlers regularly.

I am not surprised by it, having been a part of the IPL for a number of years. There are always some, not necessarily pace bowlers, but some breakthrough young cricketers that emerge every year from the IPL. And I think, of late, we have seen a number of pace bowlers emerge from various parts of India, and obviously this year is no different. And to see some of the Indian bowlers being able to clock over that 150 kmph and push late into those 150s is exciting to watch and I am sure it is very good for Indian cricket moving forward.

So have you had a look at that 150 kmph bowler, Mayank Yadav?

Yes. But I think the thing that is very pleasing that comes with his pace is his control. A lot of guys that have that out-and-out raw pace don’t always have the control. He looks to have control as well as pace. I am looking forward to following his progress not just at the IPL, but after it as well.

The toughest batters you have bowled to over the years?

That varies from format to format, but I think one player that was tough in all three formats was someone like A.B. de Villiers. Early on in my career, having to play against the likes of Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag as a 19 or 20-year-old was pretty daunting and challenging at times. But it is also a great challenge to test yourself against the best players in the world.

The bowlers you have admired?

I think growing up, Glenn McGrath was a bowler I admired. Jacques Kallis was a cricketer I admired, for his all-round ability. Growing up, the West Indian bowlers Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose were always nice to watch.

> One player that was tough in all three formats was A.B. de Villiers. Early in my career, having to play against Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag as a 19 or 20-year-old was pretty daunting

If you look around now, someone like Jasprit Bumrah has been a quality player across all three formats, along with Pat Cummins and Kagiso Rabada. Yes, those three bowlers I have a lot of respect for.

England began playing Bazball in the series against New Zealand back in 2022. Your thoughts on this style of Test cricket and its future, given the heavy defeat England suffered in India recently.

They have had a lot of success playing that way. Everyone that has played in India knows it is a tough place to go. India are a very good side, especially at home. I am sure that knowing Brendon, England’s style won’t change. They have had a lot of success in England. They are going back to a home summer where they will continue to play that style, I guess. I think Test cricket in general is getting very exciting. Over the last four or five years, a lot of Test matches have been very exciting to watch. And I think the Test game has been exciting not only in England, but in other countries as well.

Concerns have been expressed about the future of Test cricket...

Yeah, I think everyone is slightly concerned with the future, with the amount of T20 cricket [being played]. But if you ask any player that plays Test cricket or plays all three formats, they will tell you Test cricket is the pinnacle. It is the toughest format. So hopefully there is something to be done to continue the longest format. It is such a special format to play.

New Zealand will be touring India later this year. How do you look back to your tour in 2012 when you registered what remains your best figures in an innings (seven for 64 at Bengaluru in the second Test)?

I have had a couple of nice performances in India over the years. And it would be nice to do that again. But I think the conditions have changed a little bit. Thinking back to that spell, I was left out for the first Test and then came in for the second. To have an impact in that first innings was very pleasing. But it was disappointing [that we lost]. We probably had opportunities to push on for a win in that match in Bengaluru.

Your thoughts on Rachin Ravindra, probably the most exciting young talent to emerge from New Zealand for some time.

Rachin has had a great 12 months, and he is a tremendous cricketer. He is a great, great team man. And I look forward to seeing what he has. He has got a bright future and hopefully he can continue the highs of the last 12 months for many more years.

(This interview was facilitated by Sony Sports Network, official broadcasters of New Zealand Cricket home matches for seven years.)

GAME THEORY

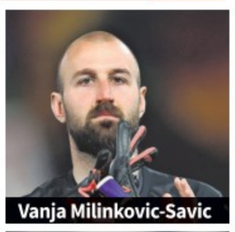
Top shot-stoppers in Serie A

How often have goalkeepers in Italy’s top flight made saves and kept clean sheets so far this season? We take a look.

Goalkeeper	Club	Games	Saves	Saves per game	Clean sheets	Clean sheet %
Yann Sommer	Inter	29	58	2.00	17	58.6
Vanja Milinkovic-Savic	Torino	30	86	2.87	15	50.0
Wojciech Szczesny	Juventus	29	68	2.34	13	44.8
Michele Di Gregorio	Monza	28	98	3.50	11	39.3
Lukasz Skorupski	Bologna	27	69	2.56	11	40.7
Mike Maignan	Milan	28	85	3.04	10	35.7
Ivan Provedel	Lazio	28	78	2.79	9	32.1
Marco Carnesecchi	Atalanta	20	62	3.10	7	35.0
Josep Martinez	Genoa	30	72	2.40	7	23.3
Lorenzo Montipo	Hellas Verona	31	90	2.90	7	22.6
Pietro Terracciano	Fiorentina	28	81	2.89	7	25.0
Rui Patrício	Roma	23	49	2.13	6	26.1
Juan Musso	Atalanta	10	20	2.00	5	50.0
Etrit Berisha	Empoli	14	49	3.50	4	28.6
Wladimiro Falcone	Lecce	31	101	3.26	4	12.9
Alex Meret	Napoli	24	51	2.13	4	16.7
Marco Silvestri	Udinese	17	40	2.35	4	23.5
Elia Caprile	Empoli	16	57	3.56	3	18.8
Maduka Okoye	Udinese	14	46	3.29	3	21.4
Stefano Turati	Frosinone	28	84	3.00	3	10.7
Andrea Consigli	Sassuolo	29	78	2.69	2	6.9
Simone Scuffet	Cagliari	24	58	2.42	2	8.3
Benoit Costil	Salernitana	11	35	3.18	1	9.1
Guillermo Ochoa	Salernitana	20	67	3.35	1	5.0

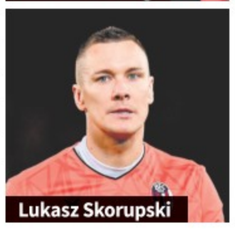
Minimum 10 games | Source: FBref.com

Yann Sommer


Vanja Milinkovic-Savic

Wojciech Szczesny

Michele Di Gregorio


Lukasz Skorupski

PICTURE THIS

British fixture

In this photograph from last month, the Cambridge and Oxford teams pass by Hammersmith bridge during the Women’s Boat Race in London.

First held in 1829, the Boat Race — also known as the University Boat Race and the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race — is an annual set of rowing races on the River Thames between the two famous universities’ boat clubs. The men’s race has been held every year since 1856, except during the World Wars and the Covid pandemic. The women’s race, first held in 1927, became an annual event in 1964. Since 2015, it has taken place on the same day and course as the men’s race.

According to reports, an average of 250,000 people catch the action live, with another 15 million watching it on television.

The Championship Course, between Mortlake and Putney, has held a majority of the races.

Cambridge won both the men’s and women’s races this year, maintaining its historic supremacy. While the men’s all-time head-to-head is close — Cambridge leads 87-81 (with one dead heat) — the women’s record is one-sided, 48-30 in Cambridge’s favour.

SATURDAY
April 13, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
22 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 55 • No. 89

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

TOYOTA

MAKE YOUR WAY

KA 42 TC 009/8

STARTING FROM ₹7.73 LAKH*

5 YEARS ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE | 5 YEARS EXTENDED WARRANTY** OR UP TO 2.20 LAKH kms

BOOK NOW

POWERFUL 0.000998M³ (1.0L) TURBO ENGINE

22.8# km/l
BEST-IN-CLASS MILEAGE#

HEAD-UP DISPLAY

SMARTWATCH CONNECTIVITY

THE ALL NEW URBAN CRUISER TAISOR

BRAVE. ACTIVE. Awesome

*Visit your nearest dealership to know more. | ** 3 years / 100,000 km Manufacturer Warranty + 2 years / 120,000 km Extended Warranty (Optional). | #Fuel efficiency under certification of the testing agency. Actual mileage on road may vary.

i-CONNECT

Toyota Mobility Service
Conversion | Fleet | Leasing

TOYOTA TRUST
Buy | Sell | Exchange - Used car

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES

KARNATAKA: Bengaluru: Nandi Toyota, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Ph: 7022340713; Nandi Toyota, Banaswadi, Ph: 7022340713; Nandi Toyota, Bannerghatta Main Road, Ph: 7022340713; Nandi Toyota, Bommanahalli, Ph: 7022340713; Nandi Toyota,Hosur Road, Ph: 9945255800; Nandi Toyota, Kanakapura Main Road, Ph: 9740409858; Nandi Toyota, Queens Road, Ph: 9741310066; Nandi Toyota, Whitefield, Ph: 7022340713; Ravindu Toyota, K R Puram Ph: 8058245555; Ravindu Toyota, Magadi Road, Ph: 8058245555; Ravindu Toyota, Marathahalli, Ph: 8058245555; Ravindu Toyota, Rajajinagar, Ph: 8058245555; Ravindu Toyota, Victoria Road, Ph: 8058245555; Ravindu Toyota, Yeshwanthpur, Ph: 8058245555; Viva Toyota, Airport Road, Hunasamarahalli, Ph: 9900030617; Viva Toyota, Hebbal, Ph: 9900027736; Viva Toyota, Kogilu, Yelahanka, Ph: 9900030617; Viva Toyota, Mysore Road, Ph: 9900030620; Viva Toyota, Vidayaranyapura, Ph: 9900027736; Bagalkot: Shodha Toyota, Navnagar, Ph: 8147599463; Belgaum: Shodha Toyota, Shahapur Ph: 8147599461; Shodha Toyota, Poona-Bangalore Road, Ph: 9035246694; Bellary: BJS Toyota, Bisalahalli Road, Ph: 7829927943; Bijapur: Shodha Toyota, Chitradurga Sholapur Road, Ph: 9606484983; Chikkamagaluru: Shakti Toyota, Kadur Bypass Road, Ph: 9686652728; Davangere: Shodha Toyota, Old Pune-Bangalore Road, Ph: 9008952277; Gulbarga: Karuna Toyota, Bilgundi Garden, Ph: 7829990025; Hassan: Shakti Toyota, Katihalli Industrial Area, Ph: 9686652728; Hospet: BJS Toyota, Rajeev Nagar, Ph: 7829927943; Hubli: Shodha Toyota, Hubli-Dharwad Road, Ph: 9740089901; Hunsur: Palace Toyota, Ph: 8971701735; Kodagu: Palace Toyota, Kushalnagara, Ph: 7022671919; Kolar: Ravindu Toyota, P C Halli, Ph: 9606090040; Madikeri: Palace Toyota, Cauvery Hall, Ph: 7022671919; Mandya: Palace Toyota, Guttalu Grama, Ph: 9538874907; Mangalore: United Toyota, Bunt's Hostel, Ph: 9686687581; United Toyota, Padil, Ph: 9686687581; Mysore: Palace Toyota, Hootagalli, Ph: 9538874906; Palace Toyota, Krishnamurthy Puram, Ph: 9538874923; Raichur: Karuna Toyota, Near Yermers Camp Cross, Hyderabad Road, Ph: 7829990021; Shivamogga: Shakti Toyota, Bypass Road, Ph: 9686652728; Tumkur: Ravindu Toyota, Sadashivnagar, Ph: 9379189796; Udupi: United Toyota, Udyavara, Ph: 9686687581.

HAKUHODO.LYNC/04/24

AIR-CONDTIONER
CASH VOUCHER
UPTO ₹ 3,500/-
ON BAJAJ FINSERV FINANCE PURCHASE

INSTANT AIR-CONDTIONER
CASH BACK
UPTO ₹ 4,000/-
ON CC & DC EMI TRANSACTION

ADISHWAR ELECTRO WORLD®
gadget for every budget!

FREE* STANDARD INSTALLATION
FOR 4 & 5 STAR SELECTED BRANDS, MODELS

UGADISHWAR SALE

DEBIT & CREDIT CARD EASY EMI OPTION AVAILABLE

EXPERIENCE THE STADIUM @ HOME

SONY
75 UHD/4K
EMI ₹4,995/-

LG Life's Good
OLED TV
55 OLED TV
EMI ₹3,990/-

LG Life's Good
70 UHD/4K
EMI ₹4,999/-

Haier
QLED TV
65 QLED TV
SPECIAL PRICE ₹77,990/-

SAMSUNG
65 UHD/4K
EMI ₹3,990/-

SONY
BRAVIA XR LED
65 X90L SERIES
EMI ₹4,995/-

Haier
55 UHD/4K
EMI ₹2,994/-

SAMSUNG
QLED TV
55 QLED TV
EMI ₹3,999/-

LAST 2 DAYS

FAST COOLING
LOW NOISE
STABILIZER FREE OPERATION
SAVE POWER

INVERTER AIR - CONDITIONER

JUST PAY ₹999/-
TAKE HOME YOUR FAVOURITE AIR-CONDITIONERS
PAY BALANCE IN EASY EMI

Available in
1.0 TON, 1.5 TON & 2.0 TON

MORE STARS MORE SAVINGS
5 STAR
4 STAR
3 STAR

LG Life's Good
INSTANT CASH BACK UPTO ₹2,000/-

Haier
INSTANT CASH BACK UPTO ₹3,000/-

Whirlpool
INSTANT CASH BACK UPTO ₹2,000/-

IFB
INSTANT CASH BACK UPTO ₹3,000/-

Godrej
INSTANT CASH BACK UPTO ₹2,000/-

Wide Range of REFRIGERATORS & WASHING MACHINES

LG | Haier | SAMSUNG
SIDE BY SIDE REFRIGERATOR
INSTANT CASH BACK UPTO ₹10,000/- ON CC & DC
EMI ₹3,990/- ONWARDS

Whirlpool
SIDE BY SIDE REFRIGERATOR
570 Ltr.
HOT DEAL
SPECIAL PRICE ₹ 59,990/-
INSTANT CASH BACK ON CC & DC EMI TRANSACTIONS ₹ 5,000/-
EFFECTIVE PRICE ₹54,990/-

LG | SAMSUNG | Whirlpool
BIGGER CAPACITY FROST FREE REFRIGERATOR
INSTANT CASH BACK UPTO ₹5,000/- ON CC & DC
EMI ₹2,990/- ONWARDS

Haier
BOTTOM MOUNTED REFRIGERATOR
HOT DEAL
237 Ltr.
INSTANT CASH BACK UPTO ₹2,000/- ON CC & DC
SPECIAL PRICE ₹26,990/-

LG | Haier | SAMSUNG | Whirlpool | Godrej
FROST FREE REFRIGERATOR
INSTANT CASH BACK UPTO ₹2,500/- ON CC & DC
EMI ₹1,990/- ONWARDS

LG | Haier | SAMSUNG | Whirlpool | Godrej
DIRECT COOL REFRIGERATOR
EMI ₹999/- ONWARDS

LG | Haier | SAMSUNG | Whirlpool | IFB | Godrej
FRONT LOAD WASHING MACHINE
INSTANT CASH BACK UPTO ₹10,000/- ON CC & DC
EMI ₹1,990/- ONWARDS

LG | Haier | SAMSUNG | Whirlpool | IFB | Godrej
TOP LOAD WASHING MACHINE
INSTANT CASH BACK UPTO ₹2,500/- ON CC & DC
EMI ₹1,299/- ONWARDS

NOW ENJOY, COOL & CLEAN AIR

KENSTAR | HAVELLS | Symphony
SPECIAL PRICE ₹5,990/- ONWARDS

BIGGEST DEALS ON KITCHEN APPLIANCES

Ayush 2 BR Black LPG Glass Cooktop + DUO Pack (Fry Pan 240 + Tawa 250)
COMBO PRICE ~~₹5,894/-~~ OFFER PRICE ₹ 2,200/-

Pigeon Mixer Grinder 3 Jar + Pigeon Hot Kettle 1.5 Ltr
COMBO PRICE ~~₹4,490/-~~ OFFER PRICE ₹ 2,200/-

Egnite Induction Cooktop + 2.5 L Titan Hard Anodised Cooker
COMBO PRICE ~~₹4,840/-~~ OFFER PRICE ₹ 2,200/-

Electric Rice Cooker Single Pot 1.8L + Kettle 1.5 L
COMBO PRICE ~~₹4,290/-~~ OFFER PRICE ₹ 2,200/-

SMART PHONE WITH SUMMER COOL OFFERS

Buy iPhone 13/14/15
iPhone ADAPTER
Get @ ₹ 599/-
₹5,000/- INSTANT CASHBACK

Buy vivo V30
STOCK AVAILABLE
SMART WATCH WORTH ₹ 5,990/-
ONLY @ ₹ 499/-

Buy oppo F25-5G
Get BLUETOOTH NECKBAND
@ ₹ 99/-

Buy SAMSUNG A35
Get Galaxy A35 5G
SMART WATCH
Worth ₹ 5,990/-
@ ₹ 499/-

Buy Redmi13c
Get BLUETOOTH NECKBAND
FREE

Buy ONEPLUS NordCe3
Get TWS COOLPODS
WORTH ₹ 1,990/-
ONLY @ ₹ 299/-

Buy TECNO mobile
SMART PHONE @ ₹ 7,490/-
Get Smart Watch
FREE

STREAMLINE

BENGALURU

NEW BAGALURU — Bagaluru Main Road, Nxt to Brindavan College, Ph : 080-35712968 / 35712969 / 9731306702
AKSHAYANAGAR — DLF NEW TOWN, Opp. Union Bank, Yelenahalli Main Road, Ph : 9731307230
NELAMANGALA — Sri Maruthi Complex, BH Road, Opp. to JCS, ITI College, Ph : 9731306692 / 9686680755
BIDADI — Kenchanguppe Gate, Opp. HDFC Bank, Bangalore - Mysore Highway. Ph : 7702203254
KONANAKUNTE — Opp. to Soudhamini Chowltry, Nxt to Police Station, Ph :9731306531
BEGUR — # 80, Hongasandra, Opp. Royal Concorde School, Bangalore. Ph : 080- 41499467 / 41625433, Mob : 9731306604
R.T. NAGAR — Opp. Police Station, 080-23559977 / 9731307264
HOSKOTE — Next to Govt. Womens College. Ph: 9731306767
HENNUR MAIN ROAD — Diagonally Opp. to D'Mart. Ph : 48651500, 9731306571
UTTARAHALLI — Uttarahalli Main Road Near HDFC Bank. 080-49587474 Ph : 9731306547
WHITEFIELD — Ramagondanahalli, Next to Udupi Delicacy Hotel. Ph: 080-40984677 9513499851
YELAHANKA — New Town, Sharavathi Road, Next to SBI Bank. Ph: 9731306685
HEBBAGODI — Attibeli Hobli, Near Church, Opp. Biacon. Ph: 27849941 9731307257
HEGGANAHALLI — Peenya 2nd Stage, Vishwaneedum PO, Main Road. Ph: 9591997257, 080-28366565 / 66
MAHADEVPURA — Whitefield Main Road, Next to Brand Factory Close to Phoenix Marketcity, Ph : 080-48148975, 9148151731
KENGERI — 80Ft. Rd., Near Shirke Apts., Ph: 9731306634
VIJAYANAGAR — MC Layout, Chord Rd., Near Metro Station. Ph: 9731306631
MARATHALLI — Opp. Park Plaza. Ph:9731306703, 080-42200050
MATHIKERE — Bombay Dyeing Road Ph : 080-40974968 9731306641
HSR LAYOUT — 1st Sector, Dia. Opp to ICICI Bank Ph : 9731306550
BANASHANKARI — Opposite to Big Bazar Ph : 080-26691262 9731306606
JAYANAGAR — 40th Cross, 9th Main Ph : 080-26541050/51 9731306617
CHANDRA LAYOUT — Near Water Tank. 9731306558, 080-41503359
NAGARBHAVI — 6th Block, 2nd Stage, Opp. BDA Complex. Ph: 9731306616
CHANNASANDRA — Uttarahalli Main Road. Near RNSIT. Ph: 28613065 9731306766
THANISANDRA — King Space Meadows Apt., Nr. Railway Track Underpass Ph : 9731306763
SUNKADAKATTE — Janapriya Commercial Complex, Magadi Road. Ph : 080-23288940 / 942 9686680764
RAJAJINAGAR — Opp. Diacon Hospital 080-23134692 Ph : 9731306570
VIDYARANYA PURA — Opp. BWSSB 080-41721897 / 861 Ph : 9731306614
HRBR LAYOUT — Surya Plaza, Opp. Joyalukkas Kammanahalli Main Road 9731306596
RAMMURTHY NAGAR — Opp. MORE. Ph: 8861007307 080-41638612 / 13
PUTTENAHALLI — Dia. Opp. to Brigade Millenium. Ph: 9591997265 080-40954615 / 16
HULIMAVU — Near ShivSagar Hotel Ph : 9731306625 080-26483425
RAJAJINNAGAR PREMIUM STORE — Next to Cake Palace Ph : 41610910 / 9731306537
LG SHOPPE MARATHALLI — Ph: 080-42197907/08, 8861002259
LG SHOPPE RAJAJINAGAR — Ph : 9731306671
LG SHOPPE RAJARAJESHWARI NAGAR — Ph: 9591997261
PEENYA T-DASARAHALLI — Santosh Enclave, Land Mark Old Reliance Bldg. Ph: 9731306684 / 9731306572 080-28393199 / 28394199

Regd. Off: M/s ADISHWAR INDIA LIMITED, #85, 59th Cross, 4th Block, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore - 560010. Tel: 080-40733999, CIN: U51909KA1997PLC021681

• 0% Interest • Free Delivery • Exchange Offers • Spot Finance • Major Credit Cards Accepted • Home Delivery only within City Limits • 0% Interest, Offers, Free Gifts depends on Brands & Selective Models • Products shown here are only indicative • Exchange Rates are subject to evaluation • Offers valid till stocks last • Products available without the offers also • Spot finance is available from Bajaj Finance • Terms & Conditions apply • Finance at the sole discretion of the financiers • Offers not applicable on Sony & Samsung.

HELPLINE 080 - 408 33 999

Shop Online @ www.adishwarestore.com
For Trade Enquiry sales@adzen.co.in

Terms & Condition apply*. Finance @ the sole discretion of the finance companies. Finance Offers vary from model to model brand to brand. Low Downpayment on selected brands & models. Conditions apply. Images are indicative only. Cash Back applicable on selected brands. Just Pay Rs. 999/- on selected brands & models only.

M BG-BGE

FABER
FRANKE'S AIR EXPERT

BIG ON STYLE
BIG ON PERFORMANCE

iconX Series

65%* BIGGER SUCTION AREA | 50%* BIGGER IMPELLER | 20%* BIGGER EXHAUST

Introducing the iconX Range of kitchen chimneys. It comes with a bigger suction area, a bigger impeller and a bigger exhaust, to deliver up to 1500m³/hr suction power to keep your kitchen fresh and smoke-free.

DIRECT FLOW DESIGN | EASY CLEANING | 20% MORE SUCTION*

HOOD ALPINE | HOOD COSMIC | HOOD PINNACLE

*As compared to other Faber autoclean models.

Faber Kitchen Appliances

Experience the best of Technology, Design & Safety.

Finance Available* | pine labs | BAJAJ FINSERV | HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES REIMAGINING OPPORTUNITIES | HDFC BANK We understand your world

** T&C Apply

ALSO AVAILABLE AT: PLATINUM STUDIO | croma A TATA Enterprise | Reliance digital PERSONALISING TECHNOLOGY | Pai INTERNATIONAL | ADISHWAR ELECTRO WORLD gadget for every budget | GIRIAS The Consumer Durable People | unilet | HARSHA Happiness. Redefined. | HomeLane INTERIORS MADE EASY

LIVSPACE | Eswar | REDDY ELECTRONICS & HOME APPLIANCES | amazon.in | Flipkart | www.faberindia.com

For corporate enquiries please write to us at: ks-faberkart.in@franke.com

*T&C Apply, Warranty is subject to change without any prior notice

FABER
FRANKE'S AIR EXPERT

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD THE OFFERS

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD E-CATALOGUE

VISIT OUR FABER PLATINUM STUDIO: DR. RAJKUMAR ROAD, RAJAJI NAGAR: 9880067829, INDIRA NAGAR: 9900863033, RTNAGAR: 9380525134, RR NAGAR: 8867760602, JAYANAGAR 4TH BLOCK: 9844754448, BASAVANAGUDI: 8884409273, BANNERGHATTA ROAD: 8217884706, BANASHANKARI RING ROAD: 9342534865 NAGARBHAVI CIRCLE: 9980023706 MARATHAHALLI: 7829710280, SARJAPURA ROAD: 9343754127, YELAHANKA NEW TOWN: 9242898587, HSR LAYOUT: 9741123364, BANASWADI RING ROAD: 9242898587, HENNUR JUNCTION: 8904704006. WHITEFIELD -9903550455. KANAKAPURA MAIN ROAD -9731513562, DOUBLE ROAD – 9845975751, CHANDAPURA: 9895222193, KAGGLIPURA (KANAKAPURA ROAD): 9019128001, KENGERI: 8431417731
FABER STUDIO: DOMMASANDRA CIRCLE: 7795581106

GALLERIA: KORAMANGALA: 9895111493, NEW BEL ROAD: 9986095566, HESARAGATTA MAIN ROAD: 9590530616, MALLESHWARAM 5TH CROSS: 6364031541, HOSUR MAIN ROAD: 9845533929, NEW AIRPORT ROAD: 9449446728, K.R PURAM: 9242898587, JAYANAGAR 6TH BLOCK: 7483468062, ELECTRONIC CITY: 9739551515, VIDYARANYAPURA: 9900196764. FRANKE FABER LIGHT HOUSE: BANGALORE: MEENAKSHI CERAMICS: 9535999054, VOCHE THE INTERIOR STUDIO: 9986065555, HSR TILES AND CERAMIC WORLD: 9632212551, ARIHANTH SALES: 9845103699, CERAMIC HOUSE: 8884188843 DEALERS: SRI VINAYAKA APPLIANCES: 9741358074, SAMPURNA ENTERPRISES: 7022973015, MAHAVEER'S:9845030960, DEVI INTERNATIONAL: 08041204059, DIAMOND HARDWARES: 96115727282, SLV TRADERS: 9620401635, MUTHA APPLIANCES: 9986036666, BARON ELECTRONICS: 9538386452, GALLERIA IN: 9945784718, KITCHEN LOUNGE INC.:9742230507, KRISHH INTERIORS: 9886305102, HI-TECH KITCHENS-9845198617, B & B ASSOCIATES-9845005583 DISTRIBUTORS: ANUPAMA ENTERPRISES: 8553164260 [BANGALORE SOUTH], SACHIN LIGHTHOUSE: 8904704006 [BANGALORE NORTH], SRI RAM DISTRIBUTORS-9448118505 [KCM. SANITARY & HARDWARE]. KAMALESH MARKETING [CBD]: 9886475824, KOLAR & CHIKKABALAPUR- SS DISTRIBUTORS: 9448115383 [SMALL DOMESTIC APPLAINCES DISTRIBUTORS] BANGALORE SOUTH- ANUPAMA ENTERPRISES: 8553164260 BANGALORE NORTH- BAVIN TRADERS: 9986115568, BANGALORE WEST- MEENAKSHI IMPEX:9113243302
FOR SMALL KITCHEN APPLIANCES – DEALERS: CLASSIC ELECTRONIC- 9448046392, DEEPAM TRADING- 9590530616, A2Z ELECTRONICS-7676049053, PRAKASH ELECTRONICS -9845949116 SMART HOME APPLIANCES-7348864642, KUSHI HOME APPLIANCES-9448294336, POOJA ELECTRICALS- 9035689501,MAHAVEER ELECTRICALS- 9880745020, ANSH ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS SALES-8139934826,SRI MARUTHI HOME APPLIANCES- 934379039, AMAR ENTERPRISES -9986286234, SAPNA ENTERISES-9845812044, KRISHNA HOME APPLINCES-9972927214,
FOR TRADE/DEALERS ENQUIRES CONTACT: BANGALORE: MR. SHIVAKUMAR: 7349614352, MR. SUNIL: 7411731973, MR. RAJENDRA: 9980866264, MR. SAHIL SINHA: 8696626512, MR. NANDISH: 8660364656,
FOR TRADE/DEALERS ENQUIRES CONTACT FOR SMALL DOMESTIC APPLAINCES: BANGALORE: MR. ARUN: 9740579505, GIRISH KODEKAL-9980645566, FOR BULK ENQUIRIES :- HITIN.KOHLI@FRANKE.COM

J BG-BGE

Water woes: 127 bulk consumers ask BWSSB to provide them treated water

Officials asked to drill more borewells in the eastern part of the city, which is the worst-affected by the water crisis

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Among 714 consumers who use more than 10 lakh litres of water in a month, 127 bulk consumers have requested the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to supply treated water.

V. Ram Prasath Manohar, Chairman, BWSSB, directed the officials to make arrangements to supply treated water to these consumers from the nearest Water Board and private Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) at a meeting held on Friday.

BWSSB also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) to be the facilitator between apartment communities and those who want to buy treated water from apartments. BWSSB had recently issued an order allowing apartment communities to sell 50% of the treated water they generate from the in situ STPs, for the first time. Now, BWSSB will supply treated water from apartments to customers in tankers within a 5 km radius and in the next stage, will even consider dedicated pipelines up to 500 metres if the demand is high and consistent.

BWSSB will supply treated water from apartments to consumers in tankers within a 5-km radius and in the next stage, will even consider dedicated pipelines up to 500 metres if the demand is high and consistent. FILE PHOTO

With an aim to reduce the pressure on the Cauvery water supply system, the BWSSB has been encouraging consumers to use treated water. The chairman said that the Board is mulling providing a rebate on treated water to industries and construction companies who request for higher amounts of treated water, to encourage further usage.

"Every day, around 1,200 MLD treated water is produced by the board's STPs. We are organising various programmes to utilise most of this water in Bengaluru. There is a need to organise awareness programmes to bust misconceptions about treated water and encourage its usage in industries and other commercial purposes," Mr. Manohar said.

Aerators installed in more than 2 lakh taps

After aerators were made mandatory by BWSSB, they have been installed on around 2,86,114 taps, Mr. Manohar said. Even among the 714 bulk consumers, 481 of them have installed aerators on their premises.

He also told the officials to expedite the process of installing aerators in places like government offices, religious institutions and other public places where there is a lot of floating population.

More borewells to be drilled in East zone

The chairman also directed officials to drill more borewells in the eastern part of the city, (which is also the worst affected in the water crisis and has seen the most depletion in ground water levels) after a phone-in programme on Friday.

While 30 borewells have already been drilled, he gave the go-ahead for 20 more borewells on Friday.

After receiving many complaints about existing borewells failing, he told the officials to expedite the work of rejuvenating borewells. He also said that he will conduct an inspection of the work next week and there will be a third party inspection of the project's progress.

Organs of accident victim donated

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The family of a road accident victim, a male, in Udupi has donated his organs after the 46-year-old person was declared brain dead by doctors.

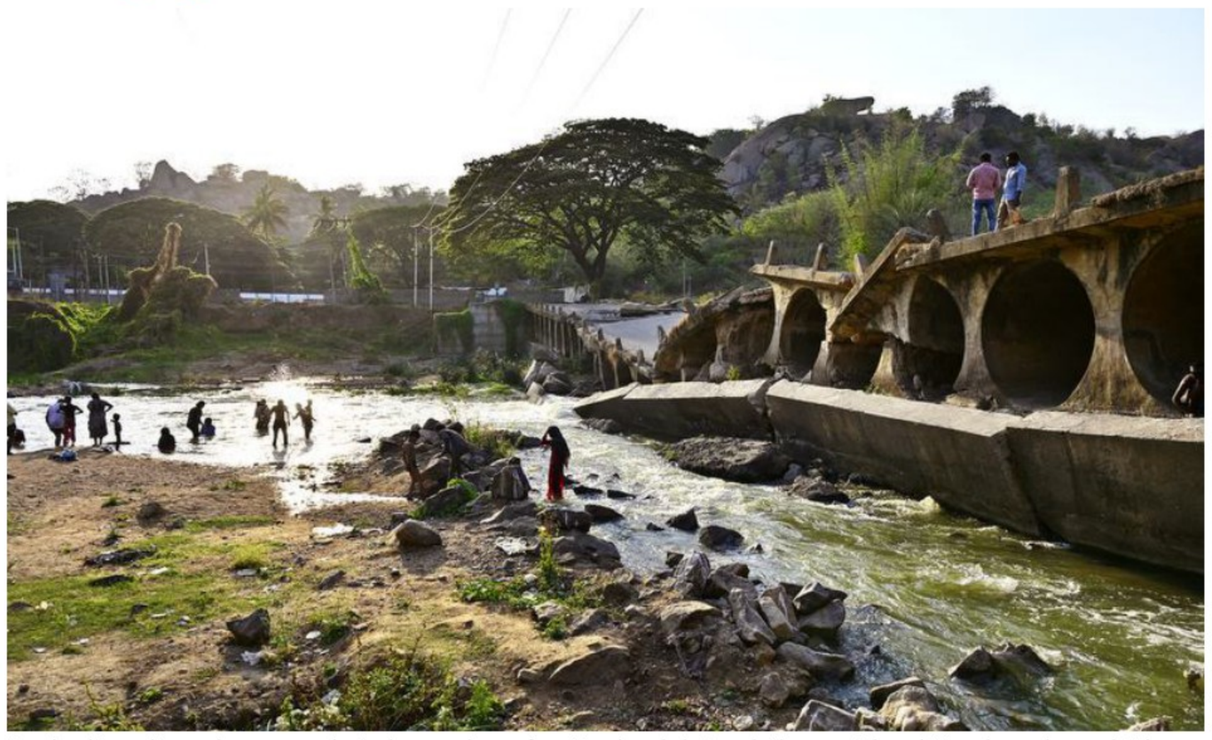
Thus, the victim Joe Victor Lewis from Kemmannu in Udupi city has given life to others in need of organs, according to Avinash Shetty, Medical Superintendent, Kasturba Hospital, Manipal.

Dr. Shetty said in a release that Lewis was admitted to the hospital following the accident. His condition rapidly deteriorated despite exhaustive medical intervention. Officially declared brain dead twice by a panel of expert doctors in accordance with the Transplantation of Human Organ Act 1994, the victim's family decided to donate his viable organs.

Following the protocols outlined by Jeevasarthakathe, State Organ and Tissue Transplantation Organisation (SOTTO), Bengaluru, Lewis's liver was sent to Kasturba Medical College Hospital, Ambedkar Circle in Mangaluru on Thursday. A kidney was sent to Yenepoya Hospital in Mangaluru and another to Indiana Hospital in Mangaluru. Kasturba Hospital in Manipal retained corneas and skin for registered patients awaiting transplantation, Dr. Shetty said.

Dr. Shetty said the act of organ donation is a noble endeavour to save lives.

Cooling off


People taking a dip on a hot summer day in the water let out from Manchanabele Dam, built across Arkavathi river, located around 40 km from Bengaluru, in Magadi taluk of Ramanagara district. K. MURALI KUMAR

Water-related searches up by 101% in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The latest Consumer Trends Report by Justdial, a hyper local business search engine, has showed that there was a 101% increase in water resources related searches from Bengaluru. The city was followed by Hyderabad at 56%, Pune at 31% and Mumbai at 11%.

The most searched categories on the platform were water tank dealers, drinking water tanker suppliers, water tank repairs and services, and water tank cleaning services. The company said that this reflected the growing concern among consumers regarding water availability and quality.

The data from the report suggested that the water tanker businesses with a digital presence saw a surge in demand in the last quarter. "This highlights the growing importance of online visibility for such vendors. By embracing the digital landscape, traditional water tanker suppliers can tap into a wider customer base and streamline their operations. This not only benefits their business but also ensures residents have easier access to this essential service, particularly during summer.

Meenakshi layout residents to protest against BWSSB

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The residents of Meenakshi Residential Layout in Gottigere will hold a protest on Saturday against the BWSSB for not providing Cauvery water facilities to the layout despite making payments two years ago.

"This protest will be held inside our layout without causing any law and order problem or traffic congestion or any other difficulties for the community at large. We will protest by holding the water meters supplied by BWSSB and payment receipts," said the Meenakshi Residential Layout Residents' Welfare Association.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, APR. 13
RISE 06:08 SET 18:32
RISE 09:51 SET 23:18

SUNDAY, APR. 14
RISE 06:08 SET 18:32
RISE 10:48 SET 00:00

MONDAY, APR. 15
RISE 06:07 SET 18:32
RISE 11:46 SET 00:14

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	26
Mysuru	36	24
Bengaluru	35	23

Bengaluru Today
35°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm and uneasy.Spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
36°C Rise in temperature. The weather will be dry. Day will be very warm and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night will comfortable.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2024
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha
No.113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore- 560 004
Phone:080-22410151/ 22429151 /9900569151,
email:sssbn1vvp@sreenidhibank.com

PUBLIC NOTICE / POSSESSION NOTICE
APPENDIX-IV (See Rule 8(1)) r/w Sec. 13(4)(a)

Sri.Shrinivas B C & Smt.Nagarathana D

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Central Act No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12),13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 05.02.2024 calling upon the Borrowers to **Sri. Shrinivas B C S/o Channappa, and Smt. Nagarathana D W/o Shrinivas B C, both are residing at No.36/1, 8th Main Road, Byrasandra, Bengaluru 560 011 and also at No.233/B, 8th Main Road, 1st Block, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru – 560 011,** demanding to repay the amount of **Rs.55,84,296/-** (Rupees Fifty Five Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Six) together with Interest and Costs thereon, being the loan amount due by them, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers have failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property mortgaged to the Bank and described in Schedule herein below, together with all rights to transfer by way of Lease, assignment or sale for realizing the above mentioned amount (Secured Asset), in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4)(a) of the said Act read with Rule-8 of the said Rules on this **12th Day of April 2024.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha for a sum of **Rs.53,86,599/- (Rupees Fifty Three Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred And Ninety Nine only) on 12/04/2024** together with interest and costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that Piece and Parcel of the Property bearing No.233, New Municipal No.36/1, PID No.62-104-36/1, Situated at 8th Main Road, Byrasandra, East Jayanagar, Bengaluru formed by the BDA Bengaluru, Measuring East to West (16+14)/2 feet and North to South 40 feet totally measuring and extent of 600 Sq.ft, consisting of Ground, First, Second, Third and Fourth Floor with RCC roofing, Mosaic Flooring with Wooden doors, windows, Ventilators and bounded on East by : Nimhans Premises, West by : 10X65 feet common passage and remaining western portion of the same property retained by the donor, North by : Site No.234, and South by : Site No.232.

Date: 12/04/2024
Place : Bangalore

Sd/-
Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha
Authorized Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is represented to the Undersigned that **Sri. Prakash B S.,** residing at No. 19, 7th Main, 8th Cross, Rajeevnagar, Padmanabhanagar, Banshankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore, has lost/misplaced the original Sale Deed dated 03/07/1980 executed by **Sri. S. Venkataswamy** S/o Late Seenappa, in favour of, **Smt. B. N. Parvathamma** W/o Sri. L. Narasimhamurthy, registered vide Document No. 1227/80-81 of Book I, Volume No. 1191, pages 168-170, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore pertaining to Site No. 9, (Earlier No. 10: 1: 2-9), Corporation Ward No. 48, Girahalli Village, Bangalore City, measuring East to West on Northern Side 45 Feet, Southern Side 48 Feet and North to South on Eastern Side 18 Feet, Western Side 30 Feet, in all measuring 1116 Square Feet and the Sale Deed dated 20/02/1978, executed by, Sri. S. Venkataswamy S/o Late Seenappa, in favour of, minor guardian Sri. B. N. Gangadarappa, registered vide Document No. 2972/77-78, of Book I, Volume No. 1108, pages 153-154, in the office of Sub Registrar, Bangalore, pertaining to Site No. 25, Corporation Ward Division No. 31, measuring East to West 45 Feet, North to South on Eastern side 30 Feet, Western side 40 Feet, situated Bangalore and the Gift Deed dated 14/05/1999, executed by, Smt. B. N. Parvathamma W/o Late Narayanaswamy, in favour of, Smt. H. B. Thara W/o Sri. N. Puttaswamy, vide Document No. BNG(U)BSGD/577/99-2000, in the Office of Sub Registrar Basvangudi, Bangalore, pertaining to Site No. 9, (Earlier No. 10: 1: 2-9), Corporation Ward No. 48, Girahalli Village, Bangalore City, measuring East to West on Northern Side 45 Feet, Southern Side 48 Feet and North to South on Eastern Side 18 Feet, Western Side 30 Feet, along with 100 Square Feet ACC Sheet House thereon. After his best efforts to search he could not trace the same. In this regard, our client has registered Lost Report bearing No. 1009939/2024, dated 10/04/2024, before Karnataka State Police.

It is further represented that he has not mortgaged, created any lien or encumbered the aforesaid property in any manner or pledged the original as security to any loans/borrowings. Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid original documents shall return the same to the Undersigned or lodge their claims with documentary evidence within **seven (7) days** from the date of this notice.

Vinod. R.,
ADVOCATE,
STERLING LAW PARTNERS,
#No. 1656, Balaji Nilayam, 1st Cross,
Mariyappanpalya, Rajajinagar,
Bangalore 560021 Call :7411531524
Place: Bengaluru Date: 12/04/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, S. Kumaraswamy S/o Shivanna, my daughter by name **Naksha K Sogadu** aged about 08 years, R/at Swamy Offset printers, Chikpete main road, Chikapete, Tumakuru is a minor residing with me. Her name mentioned in birth certificate, Aadhar card and school records as **"Naksha K Sogadu"**. Wherefore, I declare hereby that, my daughter name is **Naksha K Sogadu D/o S. Kumaraswamy** and the same as sworn before P.G. Ramachandrappa, Notary, Tumakuru, on 04-04-2024.

Sd/- (S. Kumaraswamy)
Tumakuru
Date: 08-04-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, S. Kumaraswamy S/o Shivanna, my daughter by name **Aarohi K Sogadu** aged about 08 years, R/at Swamy Offset printers, Chikpete main road, Chikapete, Tumakuru is a minor residing with me. Her name mentioned in birth certificate, Aadhar card and school records as **"Aarohi K Sogadu"**. Wherefore, I declare hereby that, my daughter name is **Aarohi K Sogadu D/o S. Kumaraswamy** and the same as sworn before P.G. Ramachandrappa, Notary, Tumakuru, on 04-04-2024.

Sd/- (S. Kumaraswamy)
Tumakuru
Date: 08-04-2024

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd.
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)
(Civil Engineering Department)
Regd. Office: JUSNL (SLDC) Building, Kusai Colony,
Doranda, Ranchi-834002
e-mail- ceciviljusnl@gmail.com

CANCELLATION NOTICE

Tender invited vide e-NIT No. **717/PR/JUSNL/2023-24** is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable reasons.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570(कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

PR No. 322354

Sd/-
General Manager (Civil)
JUSNL,Ranchi

PR 323765 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(24-25)D

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Madurai Division
GeM Bid No. GEM/2024/B/4852745, Dated: 10.04.2024

Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Southern Railway, Madurai - 625016 for and on behalf of The President of India invites Online tenders in Two Packet system from reputed contractors for the following works as per tender notice given in Government e-Marketing place (GeM) portal. The tenderer(s) / Contractor(s) to apply for works in Madurai Division, need to get enrolled **in the GeM Portal and only online tenders will be accepted.**

Name of the work: General furnishing, Carpentry, Plumbing, Trimming, Painting and passenger amenity attention works in Primary / Secondary maintenance trains round the clock at MDU, TEN, RMM & TN C&W Depots in MDU Division for a period of two years

Sl. No	Place of work	Value of the work (₹)	EMD (₹)	Tender closing date
1	Madurai, Tirunelveli, Rameshwaram, Tuticorin	**4,56,69,244/-** (including GST @18%)	**3,78,350/-**	**11.00 Hrs on 02.05.2024**

Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any Corrigendum is issued for any correction; deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at **"http://www.gem.gov.in".**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20
OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO 07/SBC/24 of 03-04-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Bengaluru - Dharmavaram Section :** Provision of safety fencing with W-beam metal barriers along side the track for a length of 63.4 km in connection with the work of increasing sectional speed from 110 kmph to 130 kmph. Maintenance period is 12 months	**Rs. 24,60,46,965/-**
2	**Bengaluru - Sampige Road Section :** Provision of safety fencing with W-beam metal barriers along side the track for a length of 36.50 km in connection with the work of increasing sectional speed from 110 kmph to 130 kmph. Maintenance period is 12 months.	**Rs. 14,16,41,899/-**
3	**Sub Work - I : Bengaluru - Tumakuru :** Strengthening of bridge No. 268 at km 93/000-200 in Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Yesvanthpur subdivision. **Sub Work - II** : Proposed fixing of sign boards on approaches of bridges ie., Br. No. 535 Up, 516 Up, 490, 480, 434, 319, 288, 285, 281, 268, 266, 259, 224, 214 and 197 of Baiyappanahalli (BYPL) - Dharmavaram (DMM) section (Total 15 bridges). **Sub Work - III** : Proposed fixing of sign boards on approaches of bridges ie., Br. No. 257 of Yelahanka-Bangarpet section, 352 A of Bengaluru-Tumakuru section (Total 2 bridges). Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	**Rs. 98,68,175/-**
4	**Yesvantpur** : Operation and maintenance of SCADA system of camtech design for watering facilities to 6 platforms 4 lines of Yesvantpur coaching depot for 2 years.	**Rs. 82,83,110/-**
5	**Sub Work - I : Yesvantpur** : Improvements to pit lines including Through rail renewal (Secondary) of existing 52kg/90R rails with 52kg/90 UTS for a length of 1.185km on pit line 1 and 2. **Sub Work - II** : Yesvantpur : Improvements to pit lines including Through rail renewal (Secondary) of existing 52kg/90R rails with 52kg/90 UTS for a length of 1.135km on pit line 3 and 4. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	**Rs. 4,31,21,369/-**
6	Manufacturing, supply and stacking of machine crushed Track ballast including leading and loading at Hirisave (HISE) depot (Quantity = 12510 cum) in connection with the work of "Chikka Banavara sec : Through ballast recoupment for a length of 7.881 km in looplines of B G Nagar (BGNR), Hirisave (HISE), Shravanabelagola (SBGA), Channarayapatna (CNPA) and Samudravalli (DSVS) yards"	**Rs.1,50,43,900/-**
7	**Sub Work - I** : Chikka Banavara - Hassan Sec : Construction of boundary wall at Nelamangala (NMGA) at km 13/300-14/000, Kunigal (KIGL) at km 58/200-550 on LHS and RHS, Yediyuru (YY) at km 75/800-76/200 on LHS and RHS and B G Nagar (BGNR) at km 90/000-550 on LHS stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Kunnigal sub-division. **Sub Work - II** : Shravanabelogala (SBGA) station : Proposed construction of platform toilet at PF-1. **Sub Work - III** : Construction of RCC drain for a length of 1500m in connection with the work of "Bengaluru-Salem sec : Through Ballast recoupment of points and crossings 10 Nos at Hosur (HSRA) yard in Assistant Divisional Engineer /Dharmapuri section. Maintenance period is 6 months.	**Rs. 3,65,50,782/-**
8	**Bengaluru - Salem Section :** Supply of drinking water to Railway station, staff quarters, LC gates and Trackmen rest rooms between Omalur - Lottegollahalli stations.	**Rs. 34,02,083/-**
9	**Sub Work - I**:Manufacturing, supply and stacking of machine crushed Track ballast including leading and loading at Periya Naga Thunai (PRNT) depot (Quantity = 21,150 cum) in connection with the work of (a) Bengaluru-Salem section : Increasing sleeper density of existing 52kg PSC sleepers of 1310/km to 1540/km for a length of 9.565km in loop lines of Assistant Divisional Engineer /Dharmapuri, (b) Chikka Banavara - Hassan section : Through ballast recoupment of Points and crossings at Nelamangala (NMGA) yard - 08 Nos., (c) Through ballast recoupment of points and crossings at Dharmapuri (DPJ), Rayakottai (RYC), Periya Naga Thunai (PRNT), Kelamangalam (KMLM) and Banaswadi (BAND) yards - Total 11 Nos., (d) Bengaluru - Salem sec : Through ballast recoupment of points and crossings 10 Nos., at Hosur (HSRA) yard. **Sub Work - II** : Bengaluru - Salem sec : Supply and dumping of ballast in connection with the work of Construction of track machine siding at Rayakottai (RYC) station in Assistant Divisional Engineer /Dharamapuri section.	**Rs. 2,03,93,140/-**
10	**Sub Work - I** : Replacement of steel girder with PSC slab for Bridge No. 490 (1x12.20m) at Km 29/800-900 between Rajanukunte and Dodballapur stations of Baiyappanahalli - Dharmavaram section. **Sub Work - II**: Replacement of steel girder with PSC slabs of size above 9.15m and up to 12.20m span bridges for Bridge no. 448 at Km 8/398 between Nayandahalli (NYH) - Jnana Bharati Halt (GNB) stations of Bengaluru - Mysuru section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	**Rs. 1,20,05,264/-**
11	**KSR Bengaluru: Sub Work - I** : Proposed civil works for the provision of lift - 1 No. at PF No. 9 and 10 for FOB at Bengaluru Cantonment end of KSR Bengaluru station. **Sub Work - II**: Proposed civil works for the provision of lift - 1 No. at PF No. 5 and 6 for FOB at Bengaluru Cantonment end of KSR Bengaluru station. **Sub Work - III**: Provision of lift to FOB connecting Metro Sky walk on back side of KSR Bengaluru station. **Sub Work - IV**: KSR Bengaluru - Mysuru section: Proposed constructions of Track Men Rest Room/Tool Room. - 7 Nos. in Assistant Divisional Engineer /Mandya Section - Balance work. Maintenance period is 3 months.	**Rs. 1,42,12,041/-**
12	**KSR Bengaluru and Bangalore Cantt:** Supply of drinking water to Railway Station and Staff Quarters in Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Mandya/G/Bengaluru subdivision for KSR Bengaluru and Bengaluru Cantt stations for a period of six months.	**Rs. 65,89,500/-**
13	**Bengaluru - Mysuru Section:** Provision of standard height gauge at level crossings No. 2, 9,10, 24, 26, 31, 32, 35, 38, 42, 44, 45. Total 12 LCs (29 nos of Height gauges) in Senior Divisional Engineer/West/Bengaluru section. Maintenance period is 4 months.	**Rs. 2,37,36,360/-**
14	**Bengaluru -** Proposed maintenance of water supply and water hydrants of all PFs and pit lines at Bengaluru station for 2 years.	**Rs. 31,29,390/-**
15	**Bengaluru - Mysuru Section: Sub Work- I**: Additional vent way to Bridge No. 572 at km 55/200-300 in CPT Yard - Existing 1x2.40x1.2m RCC Box. Proposed - 1 x 3.0m x 2.0m (26.11m barrel) RCC box by launching method in Assistant Divisional Engineer /Mandya Sub Division. **Sub Work- II**: Proposed fixing of sign boards on approaches of Bridges (29 Nos) Br. No. 448dn, 583dn, 610up, 627up&dn of Bengaluru-Mysuru Section = 5 Bridges. Maintenance period is 6 months.	**Rs. 1,63,37,832/-**
16	**Bengaluru - Mysuru Section: Sub Work- I**: Strengthening of Bank by providing standard width in isolated location from 46/400 to 99/000 in UP and DOWN line. **Sub Work- II**: TTR of existing 1 in 12 curved switch with TWS and weldable CMS Crossings - 8 Nos at Mandya and Hanakere yard. **Sub Work- III**: Bengaluru - Mysuru section: Replacement of overaged SEJ with PSC improved SEJ -52kg from km 72/300-100/900 - Total 16 Nos in Assistant Divisional Engineer /Mandya Section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later. (Composite work).	**Rs. 1,06,91,375/-**
17	**Bengaluru - Mysuru Section: Sub Work- I**: Provision of STP tank of 50 KLD capacity at Kengeri (KGI) Station. **Sub Work- II**: Hejjala IRIDM - Proposed construction of boundary wall between km 19/400 to 20/400 at Hejjala IRIDM along the demonstration track for 140 tonne crane. Maintenance period is 24 months. (Composite work)	**Rs. 3,38,24,934/-**
18	**Bengaluru - Jolarpettai Section:** Provision of safety fencing with W-Beam metal barriers for a length of 79.7 Kms in Bangarpet - Jolarpettai (BWT-JTJ) section in connection with the work of SBC-JTJ - increasing sectional speed from 110 kmph to 130 kmph. (Total 120 Kms length). Maintenance period is 12 months.	**Rs. 30,90,46,508/-**
19	**Bengaluru - Jolarpettai Section:** Provision of safety fencing with W-Beam metal barriers for a length of 40.3 Kms in Whitefield - Bangarpet (WFD-BWT) section in connection with the work of SBC-JTJ - increasing sectional speed from 110 kmph to 130 kmph. (Total 120 Kms length). Maintenance period is 12 months.	**Rs. 15,62,61,871/-**
20	**Bengaluru-Jolarpettai Section:** Proposed provision of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) tank of 25 KLD capacity at Kuppam colony in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Bangarpet subdivision. Maintenance period is 12 months.	**Rs. 90,83,523/-**

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 29-04-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/09/AAD/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination/Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Summer midday meals appreciated, but students' long trek for lunch criticised

Many say that walking long distances for lunch in the hot sun is an ordeal; the temperature has crossed 43°C in many districts of North Karnataka

BEAT THE HEAT

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has extended midday meals for the summer holidays too in the 223 drought-hit taluks as a relief measure. But the decision to offer meals only in nodal schools has left the students unhappy.

In many instances, these schools are located 1 or 2 km away from where they live and they say that the trek in the hot sun is not easy. So they are demanding that food is provided in the schools they regularly go to, located closer to their homes.

Students and parents have urged the Department of School Education and Literacy authorities to provide food in every school or change the timings so that they escape the mid-afternoon sun. FILE PHOTO

Make it early

The students and parents have urged the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) to provide food in every school or change the timings to earlier in the day so that they escape mid afternoon sun. Temperature has crossed 43 degrees Celsius in many districts of North Karnataka.

The summer midday meal programme started on Friday and will go on till May 28 for Class 1 to 8 in government and aided schools. A total of 23.58 lakh students have opted for the scheme.

"My teachers called and told me to come to the neighbouring village. But it is very difficult to go at noon," said a Class 6 student from Bengaluru Rural district. "The temperature has crossed 39°C in our district. So, how can children go to the nodal school, which is 2 km away from my place?" questioned Shanthappa, a parent from Tumakuru district whose son is in Class 5. "Due to high temperature, he is falling ill again and again. Therefore, I don't want to send him too far," he added.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Umesh G. Gangavadi, State president of School Development and Monitoring Committees, said, "Due to high temperatures, the government has temporarily revised the schedule of government offices in places like Kalaburagi, Ballari, Yadgir, Koppal, Raichur, Bidar, Vijayapura and Bagalkot in April and May. When such is the case, the DSEL should either revise the summer vacation midday meals programme timings or arrange them in every school."

Impact of polls

Sindhu B. Rupesh, Director of PM Poshan of the Department of School Education, said, "Wherever there is a caution of heatwave by the Department of Health, we will open schools from 8 a.m. to noon and food will be served by 10 a.m. Due to the Parliamentary election, most of the teachers are appointed for election duty. Therefore, due to the shortage of teachers, it is very difficult to provide summer vacation midday meals in every schools," she said.

Tender coconut, cool drink, ice cream sales rise in Bengaluru as mercury soars

K. Sowmya and Nikita Maria Jino
BENGALURU

"As I use a two-wheeler to travel every day, I spend up to four hours on the road. My only saving grace is the roadside tender coconut stalls," said Akshaya K., a resident of Kamanahalli. Similarly, for many in Bengaluru who travel long distances and work in the hot sun, tender coconuts, sugarcane and fruit juices and ice creams have become quintessential to beat the heat.

The price of tender coconuts has touched ₹50 a piece, especially in the CBD in Bengaluru due to increased demand. FILE PHOTO

While the sales of all these items have increased in the city, it has also driven up the prices both in the markets as well as during procurement stages. The price of tender coconuts has touched ₹50 a piece, especially in the Central Business District (CBD) due to increased demand.

Mahalinga G., a tender coconut vendor on Queens Road said, "This (summer) is the peak season. The prices are the highest right now." While he sources his coconuts primarily from Tumakuru district for his stall for the past decade, he is facing some supply issues at present. "We used to get around 50 coconuts per tree. Now, it has reduced to 20 to 30 per tree," he said.

The price of sugarcane juice has also gone up by ₹5-10 per glass. "While the business has been booming, the price at which we source sugarcane has also increased. While a quintal of sugarcane was available at ₹200 before, now it costs between ₹250 to ₹300 per quintal," said Madhusudhan U., the owner of Sree Raghavendra Juice Centre, located opposite Shivaji Nagar Bus Stand.

Bottled water

As there is a constant demand for bottled water due to the heat, Mr. Madhusudhan has also started selling water bottles in his shop for the first time. "Now we always have two cartons of water bottles. We have never sold them before. It's only for this summer heat. The customers usually want refrigerated bottles," he said.

Fruit juices

Juices of watermelon, butter fruit, mango, lemon and lemon soda are also in great demand. However, retaining the quality of fruits amidst the heat has become a challenge. "Due to the heat damage this summer, the fruits are prone to spoilage. It stays fresh for about two to three days before it goes bad," said Santhosh N. Shetty, owner of Sri Rajarajeshwari Juice and Chats in Rajarajeshwari Nagar.

The easiest solution to this has been packaged beverages. From the sale of dairy products like buttermilk and lassi to bottled drinks like fruit juices and soft drinks are preferred by many consumers. Kumar A., the owner of a general store in Tannery Road said, "The wholesale prices of these products have also gone up by ₹2. Some of the popular items include buttermilk and lassi. Many customers also prefer buying packaged mango drinks as it is easy to carry."

Like every summer season, this year too, ice-cream has become everyone's favourite. Dhrupad Rao, the owner of Kukie Ice Cream Softy, said, "The most popular are the classic flavours of vanilla and chocolate." Unlike fruit juice, there is no fear of spoilage as the supply is maintained in control. Mr. Rao said, "We specially source our products, so we prepare them in batches. Supply is not really an issue for us."

Surprise breathalyser tests for drivers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To bolster safety and mitigate road accidents, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has implemented surprise breathalyser tests for its drivers. This decision was made at a monthly meeting chaired by Anbu Kumar, Managing Director, KSRTC.

While KSRTC already conducts mandatory digital breathalyser tests for its drivers on a daily basis, the addition of surprise tests aims to ensure that no driver operates under the influence of alcohol. A senior official from KSRTC affirmed that although there have been no recorded incidents of accidents caused by drunken drivers within the corporation in recent years, the introduction of random tests will serve as a preventive measure.

In addition to the surprose tests, KSRTC has also mandated counselling sessions by the depot managers to educate drivers on accident prevention strategies. These sessions will emphasize the importance of adhering to safety protocols while on duty.

The Director of KSRTC's Security and Vigilance Department recently issued a circular to all officials under its purview, instructing them to conduct breath-analyser tests on drivers, conductors, and other staff members daily. The circular delineated specific locations for testing, including depots before the commencement of shifts, control points, accommodations during night halts, and designated spots where drivers are on night duty.

Filing of nominations begins for 14 LS segments going to the polls on May 7

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Filing of nominations for the Lok Sabha elections to be held on May 7 for 14 constituencies began on Friday and saw many, including a Congress rebel and a BJP rebel candidate, filing theirs papers.

Prominent among those who filed their nomination papers are the former Ministers B. Sriramulu (Ballari) from the BJP, K.S. Eshwarappa (Shivamogga) as a rebel candidate of the BJP, the former Speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri (Uttara Kannada) for the BJP, Prabha Mallikarjun (Davangere) for the Congress, Radhakrishna Doddamani (Kalaburagi) for the Congress, and Vinaykumar G.B. (Davangere) as Congress rebel candidate.

Sriramulu's assets

Mr. Sriramulu declared a total asset worth ₹45.88 crore and liabilities of ₹6.69 crore. His affidavit stated that his wife owns movable assets worth ₹2.28 crore and immovable assets worth ₹20.29 crore. His son Dhanush owns movable assets worth ₹1.59 crore and immovable assets worth ₹50 lakh. His daughter Ankita owns movable assets of ₹31.96 lakh.

Mr. Sriramulu's movable assets include a BMW car, an Ashoka Leyland bus, a Toyota Innova car, 4,257 grams gold, and 9,500 grams silver.

His immovable assets include non-agricultural land parcels worth ₹23.94 crore, commercial buildings worth ₹2.5 crore, and residential buildings worth ₹13.15 crore.

His wife's immovable assets include non-agricultural land parcels in Ballari worth ₹20.24 crore.

Assets of Kalaburagi candidates

Congress candidate for Kalaburagi Lok Sabha constituency Radhakrishnan Doddamani, son-in-law of AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge, said in his affidavit that he owned assets worth ₹29.48 crore and has liabilities of ₹4.18 crore. His wife, Jayashree Radhakrishna, owns assets worth ₹13.04 crore and has liabilities of ₹52.83 lakh. Mr. Doddamani mentioned that his Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) owns assets worth ₹10.85 crore. The family has the liabilities of ₹2.53 crore.

BJP candidate for the Kalaburagi segment Umesh Jadhav submitted his nomination and declared that he had assets worth ₹1.92 crore and liabilities of ₹25.55 lakh. His wife, Gayathri, has assets worth ₹4.24 crore and has liabilities of ₹32.03 lakh.

Eshwarappa's assets rise up

The former Minister and senior BJP leader K.S. Eshwarappa, who filed nomination papers as an Independent candidate on Friday, owns properties worth over ₹26.63 crore, according to his affidavit. The value of his assets has gone up by more than four times since 2018, when he contested the Assembly polls as a BJP candidate. Then, he possessed properties and valuables worth over ₹6.41 crore.

In the last six years, he has purchased two commercial properties in Bengaluru.

He and his son K.E. Kanthesh jointly purchased a commercial property with a built-up area of 4,000 sq. ft in Jayanagar, Bengaluru, in 2019. The current market value of the property has been mentioned as ₹7.5 crore.

Similarly, the father-son purchased another commercial property at Kumara Park locality here in 2021.

Mr. Eshwarappa's share in the property is 25%, and its current market price is ₹3.75 crore. Mr. Eshwarappa's wife, Jayalakshmi, has properties worth over ₹6.87 crore.

Five arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Whitefield police arrested a gang of five for stealing mobile phones in BMTC buses. They recovered 107 phones of various companies worth ₹30 lakh from them.

The five are from Andhra Pradesh and call themselves the Gokaram gang. The police said the accused, identified as Venkatesh, Peddapapa, Ravitej, Balraj, and Ramesh, were targeting passengers in BMTC buses. Recently, they stole a phone from a passenger in a bus in Whitefield area. The case was booked based on his plaint. The accused have been remanded to judicial custody.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ಆರ್ಟ್ಸ್ ಅಂಡ್ ಕ್ರಾಫ್ಟ್ ಮೇಳ
Bangalore
Arts and Crafts Mela
Arts, Crafts, Handloom & Lifestyle Exhibition
Entry Free
Parking Free
5 Days Exhibition
11th to 15th April 2024
10.30 AM - 8.30 PM
Contact : 9036658774 / 6364685716
White Housse Convention Centre,
next to BDA Complex, HSR Layout, Sector 6
14th Main, Bengaluru - 560 102.
80+ Stalls | 50+ Craftsman | 5 Days Exhibition | Entry & Parking Free

NEW MATTRESS SERIES WITH
NATURALLY COOL PINCORE LATEX
neev MATTRESS
Foundation of great sleep
chill summer offer
Hurry! Offer only Today & Tomorrow
Free Aircooler worth ₹8190
On Purchase of Sleep 8 or Drowsie+ Mattress only
Use Ice Cubes for Extra Chillness
SleepEight
MATTRESS SERIES BY NEEV
orthopedic
WITH NATURAL LATEX COMFORT LAYER
3 MONTH EMI on Selected Credit Cards
5 YEARS
No Spring Design
Dual Side Usage
100% Natural Latex Layer
Orthopedic Spinecare
Breathable 350 GSM Belgian Knitted Fabric
Natural Latex
Hypersensitive foam
Cotton Felt
Anti Sag HR Support Layer
MRP ₹18900
QUEEN SIZE ₹14900
EXPERIENCE AFFORDABLE LATEX COMFORT & SPINECARE MASTERY
Terms & Conditions Apply
Offer Applicable till Stocks Last
DROWSIE+
NATURAL LATEX COMFORT LAYER WITH POCKET SPRINGS
LUXURY WAS NEVER SO AFFORDABLE
DROWSIE+: ELEVATE YOUR SLEEP EXPERIENCE, NOW WITH LATEX COMFORT.
WARRANTY 10 YEARS WARRANTY
Natural Latex
Hypersensitive foam
Cotton Felt
Carbon Steel Pocket Springs
9 Luxurious INCHES 22.86 CMS
Queen Size
MRP: Rs.24990
₹17900
No Partner Disturbance
Natural Latex Softness
350 GSM Belgian Knitted Fabric
Adapts to your Body Shape
Visit our Experience Centres at:
Rajajinagar: Off Dr Rajkumar Road, Near IOC Petrol Station, Opp St.Therasa Hospital
Basavangudi : Next to KFC, Vani Vilas Road
Call the experts: 7338021446 | 9686681034 | Buy online at www.neevmattress.com

Jarkiholis want to stay away from media glare

Balachandra Jarkiholi, MLA and BJP leader, recently said in Belagavi that he had made a special request to his elder brother and fellow BJP MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi not to "get caught" by TV journalists. "I have requested him to stay as far away from you people as possible, at least till the polls are over. Our bytes may increase your TRPs, but that will not help us," he said, speaking to electronic media journalists. He was using this line to deflect questions about the rumours of the Jarkiholi clan tacitly supporting Priyanka Jarkiholi, Congress candidate in Chikkodi and Minister Satish Jarkiholi's daughter. He, however, clarified that he and his brother would campaign in the Belagavi Lok Sabha constituency, but would not enter the field in Chikkodi as they have "not been invited".

Balachandra Jarkiholi

There is much in a surname

R. Padmaraj, the Congress candidate for the Dakshina Kannada seat, belongs to the Billava community, a sizeable one in the constituency. For over two decades, Mr. Padmaraj has been working alongside senior Congress leader B. Janardhana Poojary, who is highly respected in the community, in the activities of Kudroli Gokarnanatha Temple in Mangaluru, which was founded by Narayana Guru, saint revered by Billavas.

As Mr. Padmaraj's name does not make it explicit that he is a Billava, he is now using campaign material which uses the name 'Padmaraj R. Poojary'. "People in urban areas can easily identify me as a Billava, but in rural areas, people might think I am a Jain. Hence Poojary has been added," he told *The Hindu*.

While raising slogans, his party workers never forget to include the surname 'Poojary'.

> In the last one month alone, as many as 10,000 workers of BJP and JD(S) have quit their parties and joined the Congress.
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR,** Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president

Savadi's challenge

Laxman Savadi, Congress MLA, has posed a counter-challenge to ex-CM B.S. Yediyurappa on the issue of leadership. Mr. Yediyurappa had challenged the State Congress to name its next CM. Mr. Savadi has in turn asked Mr. Yediyurappa to name the BJP leader who would succeed PM Narendra Modi in the party and government.

> In his zeal, D.K. Shivakumar is putting JD(S) shawl around Congress workers and making a show of inducting them into the party.
>
> **H.D. KUMARASWAMY,** JD(S) State president

Sending out a message: BJP leader K.S. Eshwarappa with a lookalike of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a procession in Shivamogga on Friday.

KSE takes out procession with Modi lookalike, files papers

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister K.S. Eshwarappa took out a procession here on Friday before filing his nomination papers to contest as an Independent from the Shivamogga Lok Sabha constituency.

Hundreds of people from different parts of the constituency participated in the procession that began after offering prayers at Kote Marikamba, Seetharamanjaneya, and Ganapati temples. Many of them carried saffron flags. Along the procession route, his supporters raised slogans praising him as a "Hindu Huli" (Hindu tiger).

Mr. Eshwarappa and his few supporters were on a specially decorated vehicle, on which photos of both the candidate and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were prominently displayed. Interestingly, one of the supporters was dressed to look like Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He was seen waving at the gathering along the procession that covered Gandhi Bazaar, Ameer Ahmed Circle, Gopi Circle, and other areas.

Mr. Eshwarappa, addressing the gathering, said he was impressed by the turnout of his supporters on the day. He was confident of winning the election. "Besides my becoming an MP, this election will bring changes to the State BJP," he said.

He submitted his nomination papers accompanied by his wife, Jayalakshmi, and the former Minister Gulihatti Shekhar.

Responding to the development, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said Mr. Eshwarappa still has time to withdraw his nomination papers and fall in line.

BJP worker in Hassan attacked

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A group of people allegedly attacked Vijay Kumar Sharma, a BJP worker, and ransacked his office on M.G. Road in Hassan on Friday. Mr. Sharma and his friend Pramod suffered injuries. They were taken to the Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences hospital.

Mr. Sharma told mediapersons that a group of people allegedly barged into his office and assaulted him. He alleged that the attackers were supporters of the former BJP MLA Preetham Gowda.

Differences among various factions within the BJP are believed to be the reason for the attack.

Among BJP workers, Mr. Sharma was the first to campaign for JD(S) candidate Prajwal Revanna, even before the Hassan district BJP unit took a formal decision in this regard. Recently, he had openly criticised Mr. Preetham Gowda.

The former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, Mr. Prajwal Revanna, his mother, Bhavani Revanna, and other JD(S) leaders visited Mr. Sharma in the hospital.

The Hassan Extension police have registered a case based on Mr. Sharma's statement. The complainant has not named the accused.

Kharge calls upon people to 'avenge' his 2019 defeat

'If poor people are surviving, it is because of MGNREGA and guarantees of Congress govt. in State'

POLL PITCH

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Terming his defeat in the last Lok Sabha election on his home turf of Kalaburagi as an act of "deception", All-India Congress Committee (AICC) president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha M. Mallikarjun Kharge has called upon the people to "avenge" his defeat by electing Congress candidates in this polls.

Mr. Kharge has decided not to contest from the Kalaburagi Lok Sabha constituency. He had won the Assembly elections nine times in a row since 1972 and the Lok Sabha polls twice from Kalaburagi in 2009 and 2014. He tasted his first defeat in the 2019 Lok Sabha election against BJP's Umesh Jadhav. His son-in-law Radhakrishna Doddamani is contesting from the Kalaburagi seat this time.

"This time, you should avenge my defeat by defeating the BJP and electing the Congress," Mr. Kharge said at a public meeting that he addressed after his son-in-law filed his nomination papers on Friday.

Appeal to voters: Congress president M. Mallikarjun Kharge addressing a public meeting in Kalaburagi on Friday. ARUN KULKARNI

On 'Modi guarantees'

Terming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantees as "copies of the Congress' guarantees", Mr. Kharge went on to attack the Prime Minister.

"Mr. Modi had promised to bring back the Indian black money deposited in foreign banks and distribute it among the Indian citizens. He had promised to generate two crore jobs. He had promised to double farmers' income. He could fulfil none. Now, he is coming with new assurances terming them Modi's guarantees. His new guarantees are, in fact, copies of the Congress' guarantees... In the run-up to the Karnataka Assembly elections last year, we promised five guarantees and have implemented all of them. We are now giving you five more guarantees in the Lok Sabha elections and we will fulfil them," Mr. Kharge said, describing the guarantees of the INDIA bloc.

"If poor people are surviving, it's because of the MGNREGA and the five guarantees of the Congress government in Karnataka," he said.

Referring to the raids by Central agencies on Opposition leaders, Mr. Kharge alleged that the Union government was using the agencies to threaten Opposition leaders and force them to join the BJP.

"Mr. Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have a unique washing machine which cleans corrupt human beings and not dirty clothes. The people who, when they were in the Opposition, were termed corrupt and booked for corruption by the BJP government itself will be cleaned as soon as they join the BJP," he said.

Terming the current general elections as not just the fight between individual candidates or parties but between the democratic forces and the anti-democratic forces, Mr. Kharge said, "I am still alive to realise the dreams of Basavanna and Ambedkar... The Modi-led government is already destroying the constitutional bodies and Central agencies by pushing RSS people into them."

Rahul Gandhi to campaign in Mandya, Kolar on April 17

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress' star campaigner and former party president Rahul Gandhi will campaign for the party candidates in Mandya and Kolar Lok Sabha constituencies on April 17.

The Janata Dal (Secular), which has entered into an alliance with the BJP, has fielded candidates in the two constituencies.

Mr. Gandhi will address rallies and lead roadshows in the two constituencies in support of the party's candidates. The party has nominated Venkatarame Gowda, popularly known as 'Star Chandru', in Mandya and K.V. Gowtham in Kolar (SC) constituency.

Mr. Gowda is facing JD (S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy. Mr. Gowtham's contest is against M. Mallesh Babu of the JD(S).

Rahul Gandhi

Crucial seats

The two constituencies are crucial for the Congress. Victory in the Vokkaliga-dominated Mandya constituency would be a big boost to Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

In Kolar, the Congress has nominated Mr. Gowtham, Bengaluru central district Congress Committee chief, to counter the push for the ticket to veteran leader and Minister K.H. Muniyappa's son-in-law Chikka Peddanna. Mr. Muniyappa has been sulking following the denial of the ticket to his son-in-law and is reportedly not actively participating in the campaign. In this context, Mr. Gandhi's campaign in the constituency would provide a much-needed morale booster to the cadre, sources in the party said. The BJP won the Kolar seat in 2019.

Mr. Gandhi's tour also assumes significance since it would come three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally and roadshows in Mysuru and Mangaluru.

While BJP is trying to continue its winning streak, Congress working to regain its one-time bastion

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

Nestled between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea, Dakshina Kannada is the only Lok Sabha constituency in Karnataka having marine, air, rail, and road transport connectivity. If the BJP is trying to retain the constituency in its fold for the ninth consecutive term, the Congress is fighting to wrest the seat it lost to the saffron party 33 years ago.

The erstwhile Mangaluru constituency became Dakshina Kannada in 2009 by losing Kodagu district to the Mysuru Lok Sabha constituency following delimitation of constituencies.

The BJP, which contested its first two elections unsuccessfully in 1984 and in 1989, captured the seat in its third attempt in 1991. The seat has remained a mirage for the Congress – which had won the constituency nine times from 1951 to 1989 – since then.

Entry of BJP in 1991

The BJP's debut in the constituency was in 1984 when its candidate late K. Rama Bhat lost against the then two-time Member of Parliament B. Janardhana Poojary of the Congress. The saffron party changed its candidate in the next election in 1989 by fielding late V. Dhananjaya Kumar who lost to Mr. Poojary. Mr. Poojary was elected to Parliament from the Congress for the fourth time and it became the last victory of the party and the leader in the constituency.

Mr. Kumar brought the first victory to the BJP in the subsequent election in 1991 and since then the BJP has held its sway.

The Ram Rath Yatra led by the then BJP national president L.K. Advani in the coastal belt in 1990 changed the political direction of Dakshina Kannada in the 1991 Lok Sabha election in favour of the party.

The next BJP national president Murli Manohar Joshi's Ekta Yatra in 1991-92 helped the saffron party consolidate its ground.

Anti-incumbency against three-time Member of Parliament Nalin Kumar Kateel, who also headed the State unit of the BJP, made the saffron party change its candidate in the constituency for the 18th Lok Sabha election. Now, the constituency is witnessing a direct fight between two new faces – BJP's Brijesh Chowta, 42, a former Captain with the Indian Army, and Padmaraj R. Poojary, 53, an advocate, of the Congress. The two are facing general election for the first time.

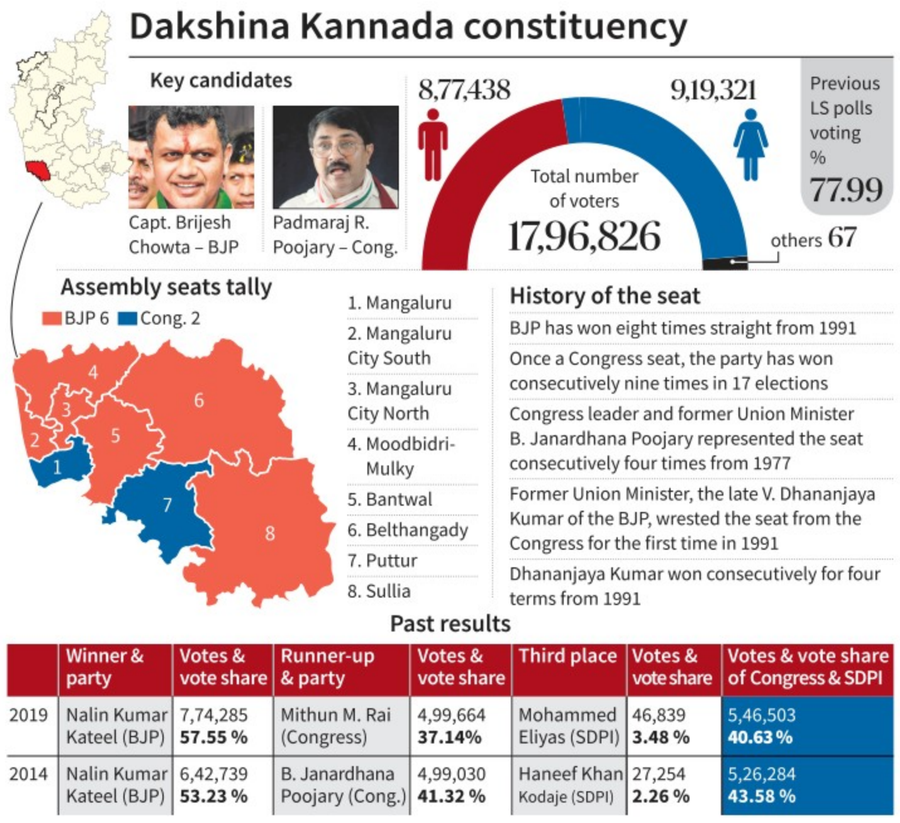
If Captain Chowta has more than a decade of experience in different positions in the BJP, Mr. Padmaraj Poojary entered politics a year ago.

Captain Chowta, hailing from Mangaluru, did his B.Sc at St. Aloysius College, Mangaluru, in 2002. He served in the Army (Short Service Commission) from 2003 to 2010. He did his Executive Business Management Programme at the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, in 2011. He has been in the party organisation in various capacities since 2013, has been organising Mangaluru Kambala for the past six years, and is associated with organising Mangaluru Litfest.

Mr. Padmaraj Poojary got his early school education at Javali in Chikkamagaluru. He graduated (BA) from Sacred Heart College, Madantyar in Dakshina Kannada, and did his LLB at SDM Law College in Mangaluru. He practised law under the guidance of Mr. Janardhana Poojary in Mangaluru from 1995 to 2000. He was made State general secretary of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee a year ago just before the Assembly elections in the State.

Priority of candidates

Captain Chowta says his priority will be "development and Hindutva ideology". He will strive towards strengthening the economy of coastal Karnataka. He says Hindutva means "economic and overall empowerment of every Hindu". Mr. Padmaraj Poojary says his priority is to restore the tradition of having a cordial atmosphere in Dakshina Kannada with the overall development of the district in focus.


Dakshina Kannada constituency
Key candidates
Capt. Brijesh Chowta – BJP
Padmaraj R. Poojary – Cong.
8,77,438
9,19,321
Total number of voters
17,96,826
others 67
Previous LS polls voting %
77.99
Assembly seats tally
BJP 6 Cong. 2
1. Mangaluru
2. Mangaluru City South
3. Mangaluru City North
4. Moodbidri-Mulky
5. Bantwal
6. Belthangady
7. Puttur
8. Sullia
History of the seat
BJP has won eight times straight from 1991
Once a Congress seat, the party has won consecutively nine times in 17 elections
Congress leader and former Union Minister B. Janardhana Poojary represented the seat consecutively four times from 1977
Former Union Minister, the late V. Dhananjaya Kumar of the BJP, wrested the seat from the Congress for the first time in 1991
Dhananjaya Kumar won consecutively for four terms from 1991

Past results

	Winner & party	Votes & vote share	Runner-up & party	Votes & vote share	Third place	Votes & vote share	Votes & vote share of Congress & SDPI
2019	Nalin Kumar Kateel (BJP)	7,74,285 **57.55 %**	Mithun M. Rai (Congress)	4,99,664 **37.14%**	Mohammed Eliyas (SDPI)	46,839 **3.48 %**	5,46,503 **40.63 %**
2014	Nalin Kumar Kateel (BJP)	6,42,739 **53.23 %**	B. Janardhana Poojary (Cong.)	4,99,030 **41.32 %**	Haneef Khan Kodaje (SDPI)	27,254 **2.26 %**	5,26,284 **43.58 %**

Panchamasali seer bars entry of BJP candidates to mutt

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

In the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections, the BJP has encountered another problem in Karnataka with the seer of a demographically strong Veerashaiva-Panchamasali community barring party candidates from entering the mutt premises at Harihar.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Vachanananda Swami, head of the Veerashaiva Lingayat Panchamasali Guru Peetha at Harihar, confirmed that the entry of BJP candidates to the mutt premises had been barred as the community, which had supported the party in a big way, was being "used just as a vote bank".

The seer said he had not responded to calls from State BJP leaders and consequently a Central leader met him on Wednesday to whom the mutt had conveyed the feelings of the community, which, he said, was feeling betrayed.

"Only one ticket has been given to the Panchamasali community out of the nine given to Lingayats. Sub-sects with just 10% of the population have been given four or five tickets," he said. He said he would take a firm decision on the election after consulting community members.

LS poll is an ideological war: Rahul

'Modi should list his achievements in the last 10 years while seeking votes and stop attacking traditions and culture'

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The 2024 Lok Sabha election is just not an ordinary election that we face every five years but it is an ideological war between the autocratic rule and the democratic forces that want the legacy and Constitution of the country protected, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in Coimbatore on Friday.

He shared the stage with DMK leader and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and sought votes for Congress nominee for Karur S. Jothimani and DMK nominees Ganapathy P. Rajkumar (Coimbatore) and Easwarasamy (Pollachi). Mr. Gandhi said the Narendra Modi government should be called the Adani government, because "Modi does everything for Adani. A case was registered by the CBI against those who owned the Mumbai airport and within a few weeks, the airport became Adani's and thereafter, there was no news about the case."

Common goal: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at an election meeting in Coimbatore on Friday. M. PERIASAMY

"I raised this issue in Parliament and within a few weeks, I was thrown out of the Lok Sabha and my membership was snatched and my house was taken away," he said. "Anyway, I did not want the House. I have lakhs and millions of houses across the country and asked the people will they not open the door for me," he said.

According to him, Mr. Modi legalised corruption through the electoral bonds scheme, which was declared illegal by the Supreme Court. Mr. Modi used the ED, the CBI and the I-T Department to raid the business establishments and a few days later, the cases would be closed after the companies remitted money to the BJP through these bonds.

Mr. Rahul said Mr. Modi did nothing for the poor and said he should list his achievements in the last 10 years while seeking votes and stop attacking traditions and culture. India, he said, is under a government that is worse than the British, and 83% of the unemployed are youth.

Listing the schemes set forth in the Congress manifesto, he promised Minimum Support Price for farmers, exemption from NEET, waiver of farm loans, and doubling of the wages of Accredited Social Health Activists and Anganwadi workers.

Nara Lokesh's phone being tapped by police: TDP

Press Trust of India
AMARAVATI

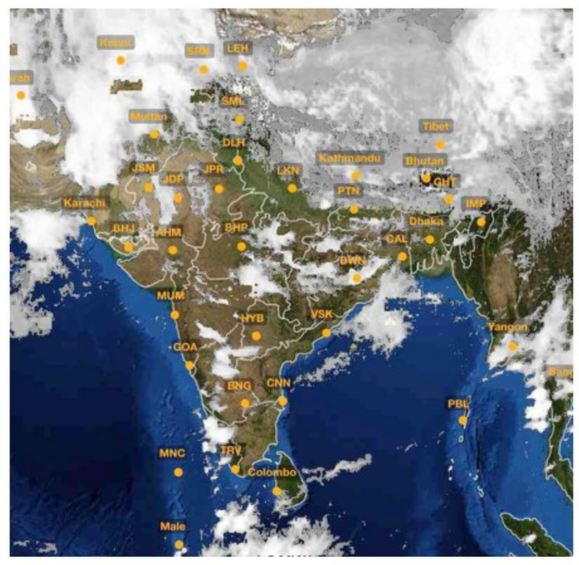
The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on Friday alleged that the mobile phone of its general secretary Nara Lokesh is being tapped by Andhra Pradesh police officials at the behest of the ruling YSRCP.

Former Rajya Sabha member and senior TDP leader K. Ravindra Kumar wrote a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner calling for action.

"Mobile phone manufacturing company Apple has sent a security alert to the TDP national general secretary, Nara Lokesh, that his phone is being hacked," the TDP claimed in a press release.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.4	25.1	Kozhikode	—	37.4	29.2
Ahmedabad	—	38.4	25.5	Kurnool	—	39.3	27.2
Aizawl	—	34.1	14.0	Lucknow	—	37.5	22.9
Allahabad	—	39.7	22.4	Madurai	—	36.2	28.1
Bengaluru	—	34.6	22.6	Mangaluru	—	34.5	26.4
Bhopal	2	33.0	21.0	Mumbai	—	33.1	24.4
Bhubaneswar	—	36.2	21.2	Mysuru	—	37.0	21.0
Chandigarh	—	37.4	18.8	New Delhi	—	39.4	21.7
Chennai	—	34.7	29.2	Patna	—	36.7	23.0
Coimbatore	—	37.2	26.6	Port Blair	—	33.3	27.2
Dehradun	—	35.9	17.2	Puducherry	—	35.2	28.7
Gangtok	13	20.0	10.2	Pune	—	38.7	22.8
Goa	—	33.5	24.5	Raipur	0.5	30.2	20.5
Guwahati	—	34.6	22.6	Ranchi	—	32.4	18.0
Hubballi	—	38.0	24.0	Shillong	—	24.1	14.3
Hyderabad	—	34.6	24.9	Shimla	—	27.4	14.3
Imphal	—	31.7	17.2	Srinagar	0.7	22.6	7.1
Jaipur	—	37.1	25.2	Thiruvananthapuram	28	32.9	26.2
Kochi	6	33.8	26.4	Tiruchi	—	36.7	27.6
Kohima	—	23.6	12.4	Vijayawada	—	37.4	26.0
Kolkata	—	36.0	24.5	Visakhapatnam	—	35.2	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.16	.17	171	53	111	
Bengaluru	.8	.11	.51	59	62	
Chennai	.12	.8	.95	39	39	
Delhi	.49	116	105	287	335	
Hyderabad	.3	.29	.44	62	122	
Kolkata	.23	.60	.22	82	106	
Lucknow	.5	.47	.45	127	118	
Mumbai	.—	.28	.23	172	81	
Pune	100	134	115	80	85	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.18	.20	61	82	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 280 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Puducherry recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'Give report of inquiry panel to survivor in actor assault case'

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Friday directed the Ernakulam District and Sessions Judge to give the survivor of the 2017 actor assault case certified copies of the statements of those examined during the inquiry into the allegation of unauthorised access to the memory card containing videos of the alleged sexual assault and copying and transmission of its contents while it was under the custody of courts.

Justice K. Babu passed the directive while allowing a petition filed by the survivor against the refusal by the district judge to provide the certified copies to her. The sessions judge rejected her request on the grounds that she had already addressed the High Court seeking action based on the findings of the inquiry.

The court noted that it never intended that the report of the fact-finding inquiry should be kept confidential. The petitioner has the right to know the statements given by various persons in the course of inquiry to ascertain the veracity of the statements.

When the petition came up for hearing, counsel for actor Dileep, an accused in the case, opposed the petition on the grounds that it could not be entertained as the main case had already been disposed of. The admission of the petition would not amount to a revival of the proceedings and, therefore, the objection raised by the counsel was not tenable, the court observed.

10-year RI for Maoist activist Rupesh in Vellamunda case

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Maoist activist Rupesh was given a total jail term of 62 years, including two 10-year terms for rigorous imprisonment on 13 counts, and a fine of ₹2 lakh by the Kochi special court of the NIA in the Vellamunda Maoist case.

However, the effective jail term will be for 10 years as all the punishments will run concurrently.

Special judge K. Kamanees had earlier found Rupesh and three other accused guilty of offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The court convicted them for being members of a banned terrorist organisation and engaging themselves in terrorist activity and supporting a terrorist organisation, which are scheduled offences under the UAPA.

The NIA case is that the accused, members of the proscribed terror organisation Communist Party of India (Maoist), trespassed on the house of policeman A.B. Pramod, trained guns on him and threatened him and his family on April 24, 2014 at Vellamunda in Wayanad in Kerala.

Rupesh will have to be in jail for nearly one year and five months in this case as he has been in custody since his arrest on July 9, 2015. Ajitha, the second accused, was killed in an exchange of fire with the Kerala Police in 2019.

The effective term for fourth accused Kanya will be six years; seventh accused Shyam will be eight years and eight accused Babu six years.

Gold, silver worth ₹5.6 cr. seized from vehicle in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
PEDDAPURAM

An election flying squad comprising personnel from the Revenue and Police Departments have seized 8 kilograms of gold and 46 kilograms of silver from a logistics vehicle on Thursday in Peddapuram town of Kakinada district. The officials intercepted the vehicle after they received communication from a source.

In a release, Kakinada SP S. Satish Kumar said the gold and silver seized in the raid were worth above ₹5.6 crore. "The gold and silver have been seized from BVC Logistics vehicle after the logistics operator failed to provide official documents for their transportation," he said.

CBI gets custody of BRS leader Kavitha till April 15

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday sent Bharat Rashtra Samithi MLC K. Kavitha to the custody of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) till April 15 in the Delhi excise policy case.

Ms. Kavitha has been in judicial custody in Tihar jail since March 15 after her arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

K. Kavitha

It is alleged that Ms. Kavitha was part of the 'South Group' that paid ₹100 crore as "kickbacks" to the AAP. The CBI, in its remand application, submitted that the BRS leader had played a "big role" in arranging the money. The agency also cited WhatsApp chats saying she was the "proxy partner" of liquor company Indospirit. The agency alleged that she is the "kingpin and main conspirator", and hence her interrogation is necessary.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME STATION CELL
(ECHS CELL) BANGALORE, TELE NO 080-25322873
e-mail: echscellbangalore@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites application to engage following **Medical, Para Medical & Non-Medical staff** on contractual basis in ECHS polyclinics located at Madikeri, Shimoga, Bangalore (MEG), Virajpet and Mangalore for a **Period of one year renewable for additional period of one year/ till attaining the maximum age subject to performance of candidates/ other conditions according to the criteria as mentioned against each post:**

Category	Minimum Qualification	Name of the Polyclinic						Fixed Remuneration
		Madikeri	Shimoga	Bangalore (MEG)	Virajpet	Mangalore	No of Vac	
Medical Offr	MBBS. Minimum 05 years Work Experience after internship. Preferable additional Qualification in Medicine / Surgery	01	-	01	-	-	02	75,000/-
Lab Tech	**BSc (MLT) / DMLT.** Minimum 03 year Experince as a Lab Assistant in Medical Lab	-	-	01	-	01	02	28,100/-
Lab Asst	DMLT / Class I Lab Tech Course (Armed Force). Minimum 05 years Work Experience in Lab	-	-	01	-	01	02	28,100/-
Pharmacist	B Pharmacy / Diploma in Pharmacy and registered as Pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act 1948. Minimum 03 year Work Experience	-	01	-	01	01	03	28,100/-
Nursing Asst	GNM Diploma / Class I Nursing Asst Course (Armed Forces). Minimum 05 years Experience	01	-	-	-	-	01	28,100/-
Dental Hyg	Diploma in DH / Class I DH / DORA Course (Armed Force) Minimum 05 years Experience in Dental Laboratory	-	-	-	01	-	01	28,100/-
Clerk	Graduate / Class I Clerical Trade (Armed Forces). Computer Qualifications. Minimum 05 Years Experinence	-	01	-	-	01	02	16,800/-
Female Attendant	Literate. Minimum 05 years Experience in civil / Army Health institutions	01	-	01	01	01	04	16,800/-
Chowkidar	Class 8th or GD Trade for Armed Forces	-	-	-	-	01	01	16,800/-
Driver	Class 8th / class I MT Driver (Armed Forces). Posses a Civil driving licence. Minimum 05 years Experience as Driver.	-	-	01	-	-	01	19,700/-
Safaiwala	Literate. Minimum 05 years Service	01	01	01	01	01	05	16,800/-

2. For Terms & Conditions, Application form & Remuneration. Kindly contact with concerned ECHS Polyclinic for the same / see website **www.echs.gov.in.** For additional details Contact station cell (ECHS Cell) Bangalore **Tele No 080-25322873. & email ID: echscellbangalore@gmail.com. Approach ECHS Polyclinic concerned for details if required.** Prefernce will be given to the Ex-Servicemen. **Priority** will be accorded **to Veer Naris / Widows of ESM** Within the ambit of Govt instrs. The selected individuals for the post of Medical Officer will have to carry out 10 days On Job Training (OJT) and this duration of OJT will remain unpaid & will be counted as mandatory before assuming charge as a contractual employee.

3. Last date for receipt of application as per format is 15 May 2024. Applications as per requisite format alongwith self-attested photocopies of testimonials in support of Educational Qualifications and Work Experiences will be submitted to OIC ECHS Cel, Station Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore-560001 by **15 May 2024** (1400h). **Any applicaton received after 15 May 2024 (1400h) will not be accepted.**

4. Interview Date, Timing & Venue. Only **shortlisted candiates will be called for interview** at ECHS Cell, Station Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore. Interviews will be **held on 04 June 2024** at Station Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore **between 0900h to 1500h**. Candiates must **bring all the original certifiate/mark sheets/degree of 10th/Matric, 10+2 & Graduation / Post-Graduation / Diploma / Course, Work Experience, discharge book, PPO,** services records and two PP size color photograph at the time of interview. No TA / DA Claim is admissible

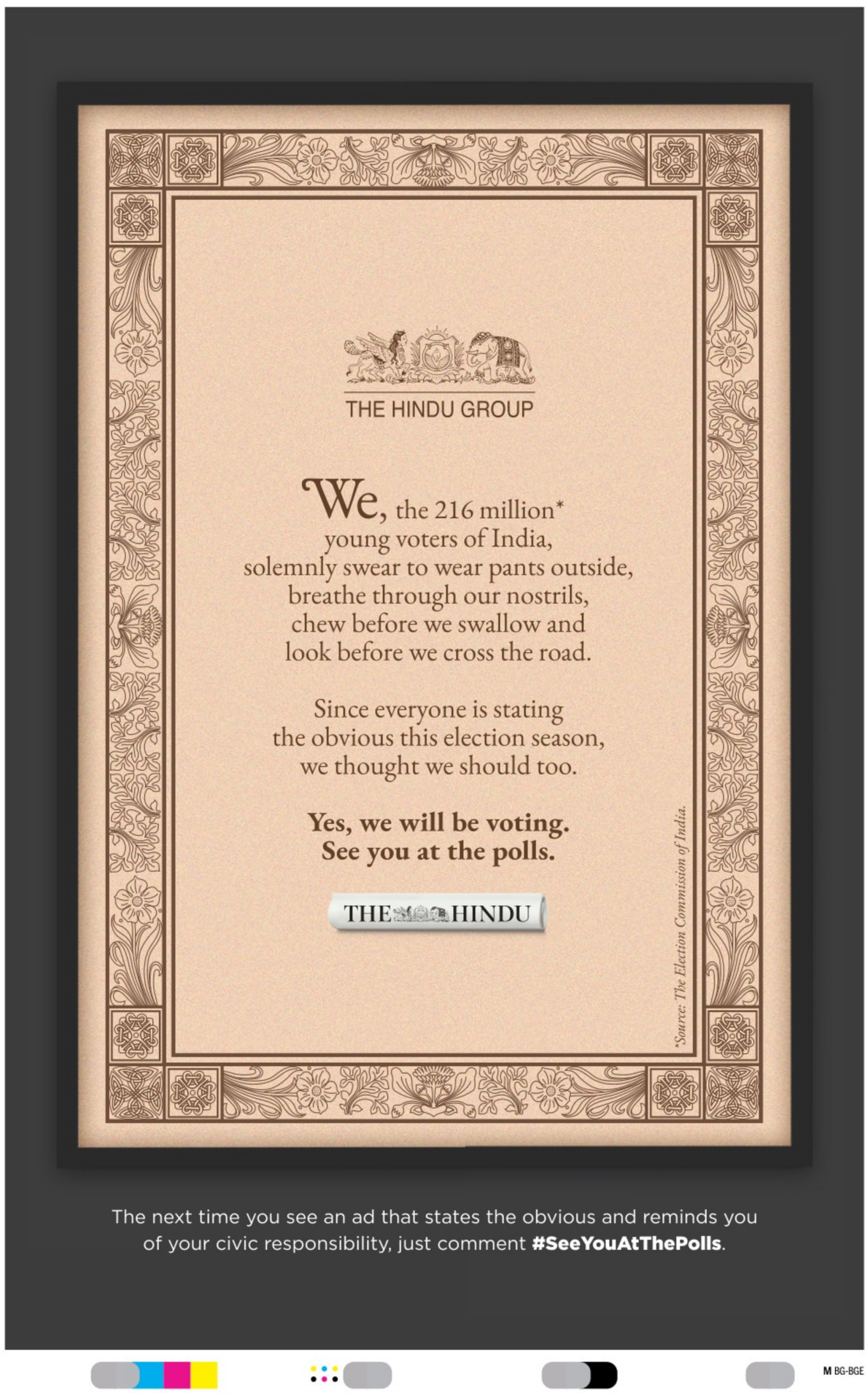
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

6th ANNIVERSARY on 13-04-2024

ஒழுக்கம், பக்தி இருகண்கள் என்று
82 ஆண்டுகள் புவியில் வாழ்ந்தாய்
ஐம்பத்தாறு ஆண்டுகள் என்
வாழ்க்கைத் துணை நலமாக இருந்து
என் உயிரில் கலந்தாய்

Mrs.O.R. NIRMALA, B.A.,
(Retd.) Controller, Office of the J.C.C.
Of Imports & Exports, Chennai
10.04.1936 13.04.2018
Fondly Remembered by
Husband: V.RAJAMANOHARAN, M.A.
(Retd) Deputy Director (I & PR), Chennai-9)
Son: V.R. Murugavel, B.E.
Daughter: S.Thamizh Selvi, B.Sc
Daughter-in-law: Sharmila (M.R.Sc)
Son-in-law: M.Sundar Rajan, M (Tech)
Grand Children: Selvi.M, Prarthana, M.Vijaya Prathan, S.Sai Krishna
Mobile: 94449 51564


THE HINDU GROUP
We, the 216 million* young voters of India, solemnly swear to wear pants outside, breathe through our nostrils, chew before we swallow and look before we cross the road.
Since everyone is stating the obvious this election season, we thought we should too.
Yes, we will be voting. See you at the polls.
THE HINDU
*Source: The Election Commission of India.

The next time you see an ad that states the obvious and reminds you of your civic responsibility, just comment **#SeeYouAtThePolls**.

Risky premise

Policymakers must simplify trade rules to boost exports

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday raised its forecast for India's GDP growth in the current fiscal year ending on March 31, 2025, to 7%, from 6.7% earlier, citing robust public and private investment as well as expectations of a gradual improvement in consumer demand as the rural economy recovers. The regional multilateral lender also projected that India's economy would expand by 7.2% in fiscal 2025-26. The ADB's latest growth forecast for India's GDP is, however, still slower than the 7.6% pace that India's National Statistical Office has estimated for the 12 months that ended on March 31. Last year's expansion too was driven by strong investment while consumption remained muted. The ADB, however, cautioned that its forecast could be proven wrong by global risks including a sharp rise in oil prices or prolonged high interest rates in the West to tackle inflation. It estimated that India would likely be the economy most affected in Asia by the high interest rates due to the greater sensitivity of the rupee to western interest rates. It also noted that while the Centre's capital expenditure spending had been strong and was projected to grow with rising budgetary allocation, project completions in the private sector had failed to match rising project announcements. Most conspicuously missing from the ADB's report, however, was the absence of any comment on the controversies surrounding the integrity of India's national income data or concerns raised about the heavy influence of government tax receipts on final GDP.

The lender also failed to make any mention of the absence of significant structural reforms in India, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the reasons the strong growth numbers reported by the government have been questioned is that they have come at a time when economic reforms have taken a back seat. The ADB's assumption of a likely rebound in consumer spending to support its 2024-25 growth projection is also at risk of being undermined. Global country risk research firm BMI recently flagged the risk to consumption spending from stretched household savings which are near all-time lows. In any case, the Centre would do well to listen to the ADB's suggestion to create large-scale special economic zones with an easier policy environment to boost exports. Given the challenges flagged by the lender to global merchandise trade, including the extremely volatile situation in West Asia and the disruptions to the normal east-west shipping route through the Red Sea, India must heed the ADB's recommendations to integrate better with global supply chains and improve its logistics infrastructure post haste.

Free the messenger

The U.S. should drop charges against Assange and hold up free speech

President Joseph Biden's comments, made off the cuff at the White House this week, that his administration is "considering" a request by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to drop charges against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, has sent a ripple of hope for his family and supporters. Mr. Assange, an Australian citizen, is in the U.K.'s Belmarsh Prison, and is awaiting a British court decision on whether he can appeal a 2022 extradition order that would send him to the U.S. to face serious charges for the publication of U.S. government and diplomatic cables in 2010. The court's order is due on May 20, and it has asked the U.S. for assurances that he will not face the death penalty. However, Mr. Albanese's appeal to Mr. Biden may make that decision redundant. Mr. Assange, 52, has been punished quite a lot already, while seeking asylum and under arrest, and, according to his family, is too ill and anxious about being extradited. Mr. Assange has faced a Swedish warrant for rape and assault, charges he denied, and the case was dropped. In the U.S. he faces 18 charges that could total 175 years in prison. The charges, 17 of which are under the U.S.'s century-old Espionage Act, pertain to the publication by WikiLeaks of thousands of classified U.S. documents related to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, many of which showed the U.S. army's methods in a bad light, and revealed U.S. government strategy.

To be sure, Mr. Assange's decision to publish the trove of documents without check, and the revelation of names of specific U.S. officials, employees, soldiers and civilians, put many lives at risk. Governments are entitled to have their national security secrets, and confidentiality is respected for a reason. It is also true that, in several instances, WikiLeaks did partner with media organisations to do the scrutiny required when confronted with secret documents, to ensure that only those in public interest were revealed. But there was also some element of "data dumping" bypassing any careful journalistic effort that may have earned it more protections. However, it is hard for the U.S. to explain why it has thrown the book at Mr. Assange as the publisher, but not his source, U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning. The Biden administration has made the protection of democracy worldwide a policy priority, and to continue to prosecute a transparency activist, while castigating governments worldwide for hounding whistle-blowers, free speech activists and public accountability NGOs, seems contradictory. More than ever, the U.S. can show by example, in the Assange case, that it believes in democratic freedoms, and not in "shooting the messenger" for shining a spotlight on the way its government works.

Data for better education, a brighter future for students

Neeraj Trivedi

heads Organisational Effectiveness at the Pratham Education Foundation

Shweta Bhutada

co-leads the Survey Unit at Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) Centre

As it has almost been a tradition since 2005, except during the COVID-19 years, the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 was released in mid-January this year. And, as it has also become customary, the report has got much attention. Amidst a surfeit of insights that the report has offered, what has grabbed the headlines is the foundational skills of 14-18 year olds. As much as the learning outcomes data is concerning, practitioners and policymakers must dig deeper into the data to glean actionable insights for improving education and overall outcomes for India's adolescents and youth.

On foundational learning trajectories

First, the ASER 2023 Beyond Basics survey was carried out in 28 rural districts across 26 States of the country. While the sample is not nationally representative, it is still representative of the district level and indicative of broader trends of the activities, abilities (including digital abilities), and aspirations of 14-18 year olds. The report shows that, overall, 26% of 14-18 year olds cannot read a standard two level text in their regional language.

This is concerning but the die was cast years ago. An 18-year-old in 2023 would have been a 13-year-old in 2018, and most probably a standard seven or eight student. In 2018, around 32% of standard seven and 27% of standard eight children could not read a standard two level text. Foundational learning trajectories are typically flat and become flatter in the upper grades, which means that unless children acquire foundational skills in the primary grades, they are extremely unlikely to acquire them in later grades, in the absence of focused interventions. Should we really be surprised then that one in four 14-18-year olds cannot read fluently?

But how do we correct the collective failures of the past when it comes to these millions of children? ASER provides data on the distribution of 14-18 year olds as well as the percentage of children with basic reading skills, by where they are enrolled. Basic calculations using these numbers suggest that 57% of the 14-18 year olds surveyed who do not possess basic reading skills are enrolled in standard 10 or below, while another 28% of these children are not enrolled in school, college or a vocational institution.

Though ASER does not capture school attendance in secondary grades, the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) 75th round did so in 2017-18, recording that in the secondary grades (standards nine and 10) attendance in rural India was as low as 60%. Thus, among the 14-18 year olds who are unable to read fluently, even those who are enrolled in school may not be attending school. Focusing on school-based reading improvement programmes without investing in encouraging and empowering these children to return to school and to reading may not yield transformative results.

> Learning outcomes data in the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 is, unarguably, cause for concern, but rather than lament, ASER, complemented by other data, must be used for corrective action

ASER 2022 provides further insights into where these children are on the ladder in terms of acquiring abilities to read with fluency and comprehension. Of the children in standard eight who could not read standard two level text fluently in 2022, almost half could read a standard one level text (i.e., a simple paragraph). Recognising letters or decoding simple words is not the major challenge most face. They need guidance, practice, and lots of encouragement and motivation to read. Unfortunately, exposed to ridicule and embarrassment, many of these children may have given up and begun to hate reading now.

The availability of reading materials and books is a crucial factor in developing reading habits and abilities. ASER 2022, and later the State of Elementary Education in Rural India Report, brought out by Sambodhi and the Development Intelligence Unit, clearly indicate that only a small fraction of rural households has reading materials, other than school textbooks. Community libraries can create rich, vibrant spaces that foster reading, creativity and critical thinking. But just setting up libraries is not the solution. They need to be managed right, led by committed and enterprising individuals who can rekindle an interest in reading, drawing children, youth and adults to these libraries and nurturing an environment in homes and neighbourhoods that guides, supports and motivates readers of all ages, genders and abilities.

Children and careers

ASER 2023 provides a peek into the aspirations and thought processes of the 14-18 year olds regarding their future. In addition to quantitative questions around educational and work aspirations and role models, the ASER team conducted focus group discussions with children of the target age group in three districts. More than 60% of the surveyed children want to obtain at least a college education, with a higher percentage of girls aspiring for a college education (65%) when compared to boys (59%). When asked about their work aspirations, one in five said they had really not thought about it. Among those who had, joining the police or the defence forces was the most prominent among career options for boys, while becoming a teacher or doctor emerged as the most prominent career option for girls. Developing aspirations is important but youth need the support, mentorship and inspiration to evaluate these aspirations, identifying alternative better-suited prospects if available, and undertaking preparations and measures needed to fulfil the aspirations. ASER points out that almost half of the surveyed 14-18 year olds who have work aspirations do not know anyone else working in that profession, whether at home, community, school or even a public figure.

Further, focus group discussions conducted in three districts, as part of the ASER 2023 survey, discussed perceptions of 14-18 year olds around vocational education. In Sitapur and Dhamtari (in Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, respectively) vocational education was marred by negative perceptions of being the route that people choose when they are unable to bag white collar jobs. However, discussions in Solan (Himachal Pradesh) offered a refreshing perspective. Here, context-driven vocational courses such as tourism and hotel management were introduced in schools as early as standard nine and the result was seen in the perspectives of students towards these trades, which gained aspirational value. On-the-job training, certification at the end of the course and readily available information on career prospects encouraged students to aspire for related professions.

Technology use

In this backdrop, the increasing ubiquity and access of youth to smartphones, as highlighted by ASER 2023, and, earlier, the State of Elementary Education in Rural India Report, must be leveraged. Both surveys also confirm what we all know from our personal experiences – that teens use smartphones primarily for entertainment and social media and less for educational purposes. Youth will use smartphones for what they find interesting and what aligns with their motivations. Tapping into the incentives that youth may have to prepare and learn more about what they want to become, digital technology can equip youth with the foundations of their aspired professions and also bridge connections with relevant professionals. For example, while in school or college, youth who wish to become nurses can undertake online foundational courses on nursing and related subjects, or even relevant short modules such as administering first aid. All this requires committed collaborations among ed-tech agencies, industries and professional groups. But schools and colleges must take the lead and do more to understand and cultivate youth's aspirations and guide them to the right platforms and avenues.

Data, and not just ASER data, when designed and collected with rigour and the right intent, highlight problems but also have crucial pointers for action. What is needed is to move beyond the immediate instinct to lament over the problem and dig deeper to discern where to act, how to act and who must act.

The blurry lines between wildlife 'capture' and 'rescue'

Anisha Iyer

a wildlife conservationist, is Coordinator, Human Wildlife Coexistence at Humane Society International-India

Rescue is defined as an act of saving or being saved from danger or difficulty. On a fundamental level, when it comes to wildlife, the term 'rescue' conjures up a sense of hope for the survival of the animal, the drama of the operation, admiration for the skills of human responders, and an acknowledgment of the struggles of coexistence.

Here, in India, the escalating frequency of human-wildlife interactions is undeniable. Given the inevitability of conflict with wildlife, we should look for better solutions than those which focus solely on reactive capture and relocation, which have frequently proven unsustainable, or, worse, fatal to the animals involved. Navigating the blurry lines between what constitutes a true "wildlife rescue" and "capture" can be a nuanced challenge in India.

The successful capture of animals frequently involved in conflict, such as elephants, snakes, and large carnivores, takes many complex forms, requiring chemical and physical immobilisation, alongside a balanced team of experts, each with their specific roles. Common scenarios necessitating actual 'rescue' include instances such as leopards trapped in open wells, elephants stranded in irrigation tanks, snakes trapped in homes, or even elephant calves separated from their herds. However, the mere presence or sighting of wildlife in areas outside our perceived notion of their 'habitat' does not always necessitate a "rescue". Leopards killing livestock or elephants damaging crops do impact communities but may not always warrant a capture in the guise of rescue. The litmus test of an effective response and proactive conflict management systems is when a tense situation is mitigated without the need to capture or relocate an animal.

Advice on 'capture' that is ignored

Guidelines issued by the central government for management of human-leopard conflict, based on advice from experts, specifically discourage the capture of leopards on mere sight. They recommend the same for elephants. Instead, they advocate the adoption of preventative measures, and for capture of an animal to be the absolute last resort. Unfortunately, in reality, this advice is often ignored in the field. A recent case in south India highlights the blurred lines between "rescuing" and "capturing" elephants. An elephant captured from a coffee plantation in what was ostensibly a 'rescue', was radio-collared and released 200 km away in a landscape unknown to the animalhim. This resulted in it straying into the neighbouring State days later. There was yet another attempt to 'rescue' him which led to its death.

> The subject is a nuanced challenge in India given the escalating frequency of human-wildlife interactions

In September 2023, a leopard in Balrampur district, Uttar Pradesh was 'rescued' after it was sighted in an agricultural field but died within hours from hitherto unknown reasons. The narrative of terming every capture as rescue is an illusion at best.

The rescue of snakes

The failure to distinguish between capture, removal, and rescue becomes all the more apparent when we look further into how conflict with snakes is managed. The frequency of interactions with snakes is higher than with all other wild animals combined. Unfortunately, this leads to a greater incidence of poor handling, unnecessary removal from habitats, relocation to unfamiliar terrain, and the use of snakes as props in social media posts, all in the name of 'rescuing' them. There is plenty of evidence to suggest that relocated snakes have extremely poor survival prospects. Just as importantly, relocation does not really resolve conflict. Instead, it creates a vacuum that more than one snake could subsequently occupy, thereby potentially increasing the frequency of conflict. These 'rescue' operations, irrespective of species, do more harm than good, as they can cause physical trauma, injuries, and undue stress, compromising the animals' post-release survival chances.

Overall, the term 'rescue' itself carries the implication that one species is under threat from another. Either elephants or snakes are under threat from humans or human development activities, or humans are under threat from the wild animals with whom they share a lived space. Attempting a 'rescue' in either scenario may villainise one party or another and erode public faith in conservation efforts. 'Rescue' as a solution to conflict draws a line in the sand, and pits animals against people. This does not help long-term conservation goals. We need to see community more holistically, as comprising and integrating both human beings and non-human animals, instead of driving divisiveness through our wildlife management practices.

The Karnataka example

The resolution of potential conflicts that arise between humans and non-human animals in shared environments should begin with a realistic assessment of the situation by identifying the problem, limiting any factors that may stress the animal, making sure other proactive measures have been exhausted, and basing any intervention on the most ethical means – one that considers the welfare of the animals and the people involved. Proactive mitigation strategies to avoid conflicts before they occur should always be our first instinct. Some promising approaches being tested across India, especially by the Karnataka Forest Department, include early warning systems, regular monitoring, fencing, better lighting, public education, and improved waste management to reduce, or better prepare communities for potential interactions with wildlife. Of course, we need to muster more will and resources to carry out useful research and to implement innovative strategies.

Relocation of a wild animal disrupts two ecosystems – the one that the animal is taken from, and the one to which that animal is introduced. There are significant animal welfare needs which we must take into account, even as we look to find the most successful approaches to conflict resolution through relocation and related strategies. We should look for an approach that leaves every one of us, human and animal alike, better off.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An NRI's plea

With the Lok Sabha elections drawing closer, there is much excitement among us expatriates living in West Asia as we follow the campaign trails.

Unfortunately, many of us have been unable to enrol or update our details online on Form 6A available on the Election Commission of India (ECI) site as it is 'out of bounds'/inaccessible for us. The only option was to download the form and send it by post to the ECI office before the deadline of March 25.

The issue was raised by expatriate community groups on regional television channels, but there has been no luck in this regard. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) site too is equally inaccessible to check one's Aadhar status or other details.

My daughter (now studying in India) has not received her Aadhaar card six months after applying for it even though the verification process was over in February. Unlike most Non-Resident Indians (NRI) living in the West, those based in the Gulf/West Asia hope to return to their homeland and, hence, eagerly follow developments in India.

I hope the government and associated institutions will do the needful to make NRIs a part of the election process in India.

R. Vinod,
Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Upholding plurality

It is praiseworthy that a majority of people in the country 'believe in plurality' (Page 1, April 12). This despite leaders of various political parties propagating the division of the society on the basis of religion, region, caste, language and more. If leaders feel that voters vote on the basis of caste, religion and other divisive factors, they are mistaken. The Indian voter is intelligent, politically conscious, and knows who should be shown the door.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

There is no clear and close challenger to the BJP this time. 'Ifs and buts' apply

The BJP, which is banking on its record in government, the Modi factor, and more votes from southern and eastern India, is in pole position in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election. But respondents are upset about economic distress

Suhas Palshikar, Sanjay Kumar & Sandeep Shastri

A sea of saffron: BJP supporters at a public meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Udhampur. PTI

On June 4, 2024, the day of counting of votes of the Lok Sabha elections, will India witness anti-incumbency? Or will the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is seeking a third consecutive term under the same leader, witness a watershed moment? In the first two days of our analysis published in these pages, we focused on the factors that are in favour of the BJP and the factors that may pose a challenge to it. In the concluding set of articles today, based on the pre-poll survey by Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS)-Lokniti, we assess the possible direction of public mood at the present juncture. We show that voters' assessment of the government's performance combined with the impact of the leadership factor may help the BJP weather the storm that economic distress may cause.

A comfortable lead

Nearly three weeks before voting was to commence, the BJP enjoyed a comfortable 12 percentage point lead over the Opposition INDIA alliance. Four voters in every 10 said that they would vote for the BJP. As Table 1 shows, the BJP is making small gains over its 2019 performance in terms of vote share. The Congress, too, is poised to make marginal gains, but these will not be sufficient to pose a serious threat to the incumbent. So, the BJP's current advantage is not so much in leaving behind its challengers as it is in ensuring that they might not have enough strength to pose a serious challenge to it. And perhaps more significantly, it is to the BJP's credit that even after two terms in office, it is not only the leading player but also seems set to improve its vote share.

(A caveat: when respondents were asked their vote intention, the actual day of voting was between three weeks to, in some cases, more than two months away. One in every three respondents admitted that their choice as expressed in this pre-poll survey could change.)

There was a positive assessment of the BJP's 10-year-old government. More than half the respondents were satisfied with the government's performance as opposed to 40% who were not. Therefore, it is not surprising that a majority of the respondents were positively inclined to give the Modi government another chance.

One of the cornerstones of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign is the 'Modi guarantee'. This, too, seems to have traction among voters. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has also made a pitch for the Congress's set of guarantees. But Mr. Modi had a 7-point advantage over Mr. Gandhi in terms of trust in their respective guarantees.

Challenges for the BJP

While the survey indicates that the BJP continues to be in the lead, it also hints at the chinks in the party's armour. Compared to the National Election Study of 2019 by CSDS-Lokniti, the share of those satisfied with the government's performance has gone down by 8 points. As a result, the share of those who wished to give the ruling party another chance was just 5 points higher than those who did not. The support for another term was higher in rural areas as compared with urban pockets. The more affluent seemed to favour giving in larger numbers another chance to the ruling party; the intensity of this support declined as we move down the economic ladder.

Among those who said that they would vote for the BJP (or National Democratic Alliance or NDA allies), there was a 6 point difference between support for the NDA among the more affluent as compared to the poor. Support for the Congress and its allies seemed uniform across economic strata. But if the BJP continues to lead with a skewed class base, that could be a warning signal to the party (Table 2).

The Modi factor

Ever since Mr. Modi arrived on the all-India scene in 2013 to campaign for the 2014 general elections, the BJP and the NDA's campaign appears to revolve around his persona. By placing the Prime Minister at the centre of its campaign, the BJP is hedging on the most critical factor that could give it a decisive advantage. Close to half the respondents named Mr. Modi as their preferred prime ministerial choice. (It is important to note here that no names were offered to the respondents.) Mr. Gandhi was mentioned by a little less than three of every 10 respondents. The gap between the two leaders was 21 points.

What makes Mr. Modi so acceptable and what is considered his most admired achievement? One-fourth of the respondents said that the most admired work of the Modi government is the construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. All the other reasons given for liking Mr. Modi paled in comparison to this: less than 10% pointed to work related to employment, poverty alleviation, or boosting India's image abroad. Among NDA supporters, one-third cited construction of the Ram Mandir, one of every 10 highlighted employment opportunities, and another one of every 10 focused on India's improved international image as reasons for liking him. The message is therefore loud and clear: notwithstanding the economic hiccups reported on the first day of these reports, voters in general and NDA voters in particular latched on to the Modi factor for what our reports earlier called 'consolidation of Hindus'.

While this helps the BJP currently in winning votes, respondents clearly mentioned what they did not like about the Modi government: 24% said that they did not like the handling of price rise and another 24% mentioned increasing unemployment as the most disliked thing about this government. How long a leader and a party can lead popularity charts with these indictments is a critical question.

Regional divide

In 2014, the BJP's victory was primarily based on its stunning performance in States in the north and west. In 2019, while retaining that performance and even partially improving on it, the BJP made significant headway in parts of the east, notably West Bengal and Assam. This leaves out the bulk of the south except Karnataka where the BJP performed well in 2019. Will the regional divide continue to impact electoral outcomes?

The stagnation of bipolarity in Kerala, the defeat of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi in Telangana in the last Assembly elections, and the BJP's alliance with the Telugu Desam Party in Andhra Pradesh are likely to help the national party penetrate the southern fortress. Our pre-poll suggests that the regional divide may still operate albeit with reduced significance. The north and west seemed to strongly favour the NDA. The alliance also had good support in the east and Northeast. The challenge that it faces is in the south, where there seemed to be an even split between support for the NDA and for the Opposition (Table 3). As figures for the Congress and the BJP in Table 3 show, the intended vote in favour of the BJP was increasing in both the south and east, which will probably narrow the political variation across regions. This would be a major gain for the BJP.

However, alongside region, the nature of the electoral contest may also shape the possible configuration of voters' choices. In direct fights between the BJP and Congress, the BJP seemed to have an impressive lead. This dropped to half in contests between the NDA and the INDIA alliance. In multi-cornered contests, there seemed to be a clear three-way split in terms of support.

All this shows that there is no clear and close challenger to the BJP. However, the voters may be sending out many other messages. The BJP was leading in terms of possible vote share, but the respondents were upset about economic distress. Those who were not convinced that *achhe din* (good days) have come did not show the same enthusiasm in voting for the BJP. And therein lies the most fascinating aspect of this election: the BJP is leading not *because* of its economic performance but *despite the lack of it*. How the BJP will negotiate this tension or how the Opposition will take this tension to voters will determine whether the vote intentions as expressed in our survey remain stable or get upset.

Sandeep Shastri is Director-Academics, NITTE Education Trust, and the National Coordinator of the Lokniti Network; Suhas Palshikar taught political science and is chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics; and Sanjay Kumar is Professor and Co-director Lokniti-CSDS

Table 1: Vote choice if elections were held today

	(%)
Congress	21
Congress allies	13
BJP	40
BJP allies	6
BSP	3
Left	2
Others	15

> Close to half the respondents named Narendra Modi as their preferred prime ministerial choice. Rahul Gandhi was mentioned by a little less than three of every 10 respondents. (No names were offered to the respondents)

Table 2: Party preference across economic classes

(%)

	Party we will vote for in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections				
	Cong.	Cong. allies	BJP	BJP allies	Other parties
Poor	22	12	39	4	24
Lower	22	14	39	5	20
Middle	20	13	40	7	19
Upper	20	12	45	11	13

Table 3: Party preference across regions

(%)

	Party we will vote for in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections				
	Cong.	Cong. allies	BJP	BJP allies	Other parties
North and West	24 (22)	16	47 (48)	3	11
South	23 (20)	15	25 (18)	13	24
East and Northeast	14 (12)	5	42 (34)	5	34

Note: Figures in parentheses show actual vote shares of Congress and BJP in 2019 in the respective regions.

The front-runner: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting in Coimbatore as part of the election campaign. SIVA SARAVANAN S.

The leadership factor is the BJP's trump card

Table 1: Voters' choice for Prime Minister

Choice of Prime Minister	(%)
Narendra Modi	48
Rahul Gandhi	27
Arvind Kejriwal	3
Mamata Banerjee	3
Akhilesh Yadav	3
Any other	6

Note: Rest did not respond

Question asked: Who would you prefer as the next Prime Minister of India?

Table 2: The most popular work of the Modi government

The one work liked the most	(%)
Ram Mandir in Ayodhya	23
Related to employment	9
Poverty alleviation	8
India's international image	8
Creating better infrastructure for roads or transportation	5
Hindutva	5
Tackling issues of development	4
Economic growth	2
Good governance	2
Handling corruption	2
Other issue not mentioned above	11
Don't like any work	10

Note: Rest did not respond

Question asked: Which is the one work of the Narendra Modi government that you have liked the most?

Sandeep Shastri

In the run up to the 2024 election campaign, it became increasingly clear that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was at the centre of the BJP's campaign. In his interactions with the electorate, Mr. Modi emphasised that voting for the BJP would mean voting for the 'Modi guarantee'. It will not be a surprise if all the NDA candidates in this election seek votes in the name of Mr. Modi and appeal to the electorate saying their vote would help secure one more seat, which in turn would help elect Mr. Modi as Prime Minister for a third term. There was a tacit assumption in many of Mr. Modi's speeches that he is coming back to power.

The pre-poll survey data underscore Mr. Modi's preeminence in the leadership sweepstakes. Close to half the respondents mentioned him as their preferred choice for prime ministership. It is important to record that no names were offered to the respondents when seeking their opinion on their preferred Prime Minister. The name they took was noted by the interviewers. Rahul Gandhi emerged a distant second with close to three of every 10 respondents mentioning his name. The other three names that found a little traction were Arvind Kejriwal, Mamata Banerjee, and Akhilesh Yadav (Table 1).

Modi enjoyed higher endorsement from the upper castes and OBCs as compared to the Dalits and tribal people

There are interesting demographic variations in the support for Mr. Modi to be the Prime Minister after the elections. The support for Mr. Modi was higher in rural areas and among the economically well off respondents. Mr. Modi enjoyed higher endorsement from the upper castes and Other Backward Classes as compared to the Dalits and tribal people. Among Muslims, a little less than one-seventh (14%) endorsed him as their prime ministerial candidature. The share among other religious minorities was 28%.

What contributed to Mr. Modi's and his government's popularity quotient? Close to one-fourth of the respondents (23%) were appreciative of the Ram Mandir inauguration. Close to one of every 10 (9%) endorsed the efforts to generate employment. Another one of every ten (8%) supported poverty alleviation initiatives. Another one of every ten (11%) lauded the efforts to improve infrastructure, tackle issues of development, and foster economic growth. Another one of every ten (8%) applauded the government's efforts at improving India's international image (Table 2).

What were the least liked efforts of the Modi government? One-fourth of the respondents mentioned unemployment and another one-fourth mentioned price rise and inflation. One in every 10 mentioned poverty. The disquiet of eight of every 10 respondents was linked directly to issues of economic distress (Table 3).

What did NDA supporters most appreciate about Mr. Modi's leadership? One-third (33%) referred to the Ram Mandir, one-eighth (12%) referred to the generation of employment, and one of every 10 (10%) were positive about India's improved international image (Table 4). The supporters of the Opposition took a similar stand. One-fourth listed unemployment as the biggest disappointment with Mr. Modi. A little less than one-fourth referred to inflation and one in every 10 spoke of poverty (Table 5).

The leadership factor is the BJP's trump card in this election. It is with Mr. Modi's popularity that the party probably hopes to neutralise the effects of negative sentiments about the economy. Mr. Modi's ability to present visions of a grand future is the BJP's counterbalance to citizen experiences of current hardship. The narrative of the party's campaign is a clear indicator of the same.

Sandeep Shastri is Director-Academics, NITTE Education Trust, and the National Coordinator of the Lokniti Network

Table 3: The least popular initiative of the Modi government

	(%)
Price rise/inflation	24
Increasing unemployment	24
Poverty	10
Dealing with corruption/scams	7
Development issue	4
Promoting communalism/ religious discrimination	3
Issue related to farmers	3
Bad governance	2
Lack of economic growth	2
Poor condition of roads or transport	2
Other issue not mentioned above	6

Note: Rest did not respond

Question asked: Which is the work of the Narendra Modi government that you have disliked the most?

Table 4: Top three admired works according to voters of the NDA

	Most admired work of Modi		
	1st	2nd	3rd
NDA voters	Ram Mandir (33%)	Employment generation (12%)	India's international image (10%)

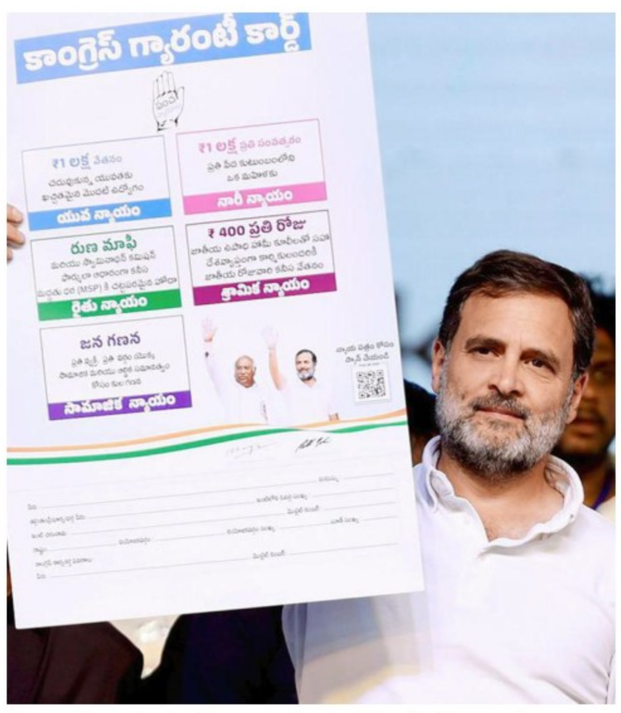
Table 5: Least liked works according to voters of the Opposition parties

	Least liked work of Modi		
INDIA voters	Unemployment (25%)	Inflation (23%)	Poverty (10%)
Voters of other parties	Unemployment (23%)	Inflation (22%)	Poverty (9%)

Many promises to keep and miles to go before electoral gains can be reaped

Analysis of voter responses reveals nuanced patterns with Narendra Modi's guarantees getting more trust among older, and less educated voters, while Rahul Gandhi's resonated more with the middle class and educated; however, electoral choices are rarely determined solely by guarantees

Sanjeer Alam



Guarantee wars: While political parties may come up with an array of guarantees, what matters more is voters' trust in the promises. PTI

Making promises to voters in the run up to elections is a standard practice; a legitimate route for political parties to reach out to the electorate. But now political parties have gone a step ahead. Guarantees have replaced promises. In a way, the move away from promises to guarantees signals an increasing electoral competition. While political parties may come up with a specific package of guarantees, what matters more is voters' trust in the promises made by different political parties. The findings of the pre-poll survey conducted by the CSDS help us make sense of this. In fact, the BJP ran a campaign titled *'Modi sarkar ki Guarantee'* and the Prime Minister repeatedly assured that his guarantees would be honoured.

'Interesting patterns'

In Mr. Modi's versus Mr. Gandhi's guarantees, it appears that voters are not very much enthused by showers of guarantees as only a small slice of voters expressed a lot of trust in either. With 23% of voters having a lot of trust in Mr. Modi's guarantees as against 17% in Mr. Gandhi's guarantees, the BJP has only a slight advantage over the Congress.

Combining 'a lot' and 'somewhat' trust, the BJP is ahead of the Congress by a thin margin of seven percentage points. Given this, it may be said, that at the moment, voters are not differentiating much between the two parties and their guarantees (Table 1).

Whose guarantees are appealing to whom? Some interesting patterns cannot be missed (Table 2). The first is the inter-generational pattern. Though older voters are less likely than younger voters to trust guarantees, they are more likely than others to trust Mr. Modi's guarantees vis-à-vis Mr. Gandhi's. Among the older voters, there is a gap of 11 percentage points in Mr. Modi's versus Mr. Gandhi's guarantees. While more young voters are inclined to trust in Mr. Modi's guarantees than Mr. Gandhi's, the gap, nevertheless, shrinks.

Trust factor

The level of trust in guarantees also varies by where voters live. It appears that Mr. Modi's guarantees have greater purchase among the voters living in villages as compared to those living in towns and cities. Among rural voters, there is a gap of nine percentage points in the level of trust in the two leaders' guarantees. Interestingly, those living in towns are equally likely to trust Mr. Modi's and Mr. Gandhi's guarantees.

The class location of voters reflects considerable variations in the level of trust in guarantees. As for rich voters, they are more likely than others to trust Mr. Modi's guarantees. A difference of 18 percentage points among rich voters in the level of trust in Mr. Modi's versus Mr. Gandhi's guarantees tells it all. Mr. Gandhi's guarantees appear to have a greater purchase among middle class voters as compared to others. It is among middle class voters that the trust gap in the two leaders' guarantees almost closes.

Voters with different levels of educational attainment are also likely to trust the guarantees of the two leaders quite differently. It seems Mr. Modi's guarantees are more popular among the less educated voters than others.

Conversely, Mr. Gandhi's guarantees seem to have greater resonance among those highly educated. It is particularly among college educated voters that the gap in the level of trust shrinks considerably.

One might see in these patterns of trust in guarantees likely patterns of voting. However, it is important to note that promises or guarantees made during elections rarely become a decisive factor in electoral choice.

Sanjeer Alam is Associate Professor at CSDS

Table 1: Level of trust in Modi's and Rahul's guarantees

	Trust in Modi's guarantees (%)	Trust in Rahul Gandhi's guarantees (%)
A lot	23	17
Somewhat	33	32
Not much	16	20
Not at all	19	18

Note: *The rest did not respond*

Question asked: *The BJP is making many promises as Modi sarkar ki guarantee. Do you think it is very likely, somewhat likely, not much likely or not at all likely that the BJP, if returned to power, will fulfil those promises?*

How much faith do you have that the guarantee given by Rahul Gandhi to provide jobs to the youth will be fulfilled – a lot, somewhat, not much or not at all?

Table 2: Upper class trust in Modi's guarantees; middle class trust in Rahul's guarantees

	Trust in Modi's guarantees (%)	Trust in Rahul Gandhi's guarantees (%)	Gap in level of trust (percentage points)
Overall	**56**	**49**	**7**
AGE			
18-25 years	58	53	5
26-35 years	55	52	3
46-55 years	56	47	9
Above 55 years	52	41	11
LOCALITY			
Village	58	49	9
Town	49	48	1
City	48	44	4
ECONOMIC CLASS			
Poor	51	44	7
Lower	54	50	4
Middle	56	53	3
Upper	62	44	18
EDUCATION			
Non-literate	49	39	10
Primary pass	56	48	8
Matric pass	59	52	7
12+ pass	57	51	6
College and above	55	51	4

Note: *A lot and somewhat trust is clubbed together*

Satisfaction and discontent: the dual narrative of Modi's governance

Hilal Ahmed

The performance of the Narendra Modi government has emerged as an important electoral issue. The BJP is keen to highlight its achievements to show that voters are fully satisfied with the policies and programmes introduced by the BJP-NDA government in the past ten years. The Opposition, on the contrary, is interested in focusing on social disquiet, economic hardship, and political anxieties to pose a serious challenge to the ruling party.

There is a slowly growing uneasiness with the regime; yet, this discontent has not reached an electorally decisive level. Four key findings need to be highlighted for a comprehensive assessment of the emerging political scenario.

First, there is an overall satisfaction regarding the performance of the Union government in the past five years. Over 57% respondents affirm that they are fully or partly satisfied with the Modi regime (Table 1). Data shows that the level of dissatisfaction with the government has also increased. Our 2019 study had found that around 30% respondents were not happy with the first Modi government. In the past five years, this number has gone up to 39% while there is a huge dip in overall satisfaction from 65% in 2019 to 57% now.

Second, there is a class dimension behind this acceptability of the Union government. Around 62% respondents belonging to the well-off segment of society express their positive opinion, while, on the contrary, the lower and middle classes are more dissatisfied (Table 2).

The lower and middle class groups have been facing the problems of growing unemployment and price rises. This economic crisis plays a role in determining their political opinions.

Third, the spatial context of a respondent is also a factor. Around 60% rural respondents confirm that they are happy in comparison to 50% in urban areas expressing satisfaction (Table 3).

Table 4 further complicates this picture. The northern and western States are more satisfied than the southern regions.

Fourth, the performance of the government should also be assessed in relation to sociological configurations. Table 5 demonstrates that Muslims are not very happy with the performance of the Modi government. Only 8% Muslims say that they are fully satisfied; while 24% argue that they have somewhat a positive opinion. This response must be seen in relation to a category called Others, which also includes Sikh and Christian communities. It means that religious minorities are more concerned and feel alienated.

Hilal Ahmed is Associate Professor at CSDS-Lokniti

Table 1: Satisfaction with the Union government (%)

Satisfaction with Union government	Pre-poll 2024	Post-poll 2019
Fully satisfied	23	26
Somewhat satisfied	34	39
Somewhat dissatisfied	19	12
Fully dissatisfied	20	18

Note: *Rest did not respond*

Question asked: *Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the work of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre over the last five years?*

Table 2: Satisfaction with the Union government by class (%)

Economic Class	Satisfaction with the work done by Union government			
	Fully satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Fully dissatisfied
Poor	22	33	16	22
Lower	21	35	20	20
Middle	22	35	20	20
Upper	30	32	18	18

Note: *Rest did not respond*

Table 3: Satisfaction with the Union government by locality (%)

Locality	Satisfaction with the work done by Union government			
	Fully satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Fully dissatisfied
Villages	24	36	17	19
Towns	20	31	22	22
Cities	20	29	23	25

Note: *Rest did not respond*

Table 4: Satisfaction with the Union government by region (%)

Regions	Satisfaction with the work done by Union government			
	Fully satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Fully dissatisfied
North and West	27	31	17	22
South	16	39	18	21
East and North East	21	37	22	15

Note: *Rest did not respond*

Table 5: Social groups and level of satisfaction with the Union government (%)

Caste/ communities	Satisfaction with the work done by Union government			
	Fully satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Fully dissatisfied
Hindu upper caste	34	34	15	13
Hindu OBC	25	38	18	15
Hindu SCs	21	36	18	22
Hindu STs	17	41	23	15
Muslims	8	24	23	36
Others	11	29	21	32

Note: *Rest did not respond*

Do voters think that present govt. should get another opportunity?

Suhas Palshikar

While the ultimate assessment of a government by the citizens is through the proverbial ballot box (now the voting machine), there are a few clues that tell us in advance what the voter is thinking of the incumbent government. Two such clues are voter satisfaction with the government and willingness to have the incumbent re-elected. Do voters want this government to be back?

A straightforward answer is that at the time of this pre-poll, a majority of respondents were willing to 'give another chance' to the Modi government. For a government seeking a third term, this is an important achievement. However, this willingness to re-elect is somewhat constrained by the fact that there is an equally substantial proportion of the respondents who are not willing to concede another chance to this government. As against 44% who want this government to be re-elected, 39% do not want the government to be re-elected. This gap being rather narrow, the cushion for the BJP is somewhat precarious. Should a chunk of those who are endorsing re-election at the present juncture move away or lose their enthusiasm to re-elect the BJP, that could have adverse consequences for the BJP.

Table 1 puts the present finding in perspective by reporting similar sentiments for different governments of the past two decades. Barring the enigmatic discrepancy between willingness to re-elect and the actual outcome in 2004, for other elections, we find that a robust willingness or a firm unwillingness correspond neatly with the outcome of the election. It remains to be observed if the Modi government too follows this pattern.

Specific and concrete

When asked as to why the Modi government should be re-elected, respondents do not have a very concrete answer. The majority of the responses simply appreciate the good work done by the government as the reason for their support. We might call this the goodwill factor. For a variety of reasons, the government has earned the goodwill of the voters and that might stand in good stead for the ruling party at the polls. However, two notable reasons that voters mentioned are welfare schemes and Modi's leadership (Table 2).

In contrast, for those who do not want this government to be back, the reasons are quite specific and concrete (Table 3). If we combine the inter-related reasons that constitute broadly a disapproval of the government's economic policies and their outcomes, it can be seen that two in every three respondents not wanting this government back make a reference to the economy. This connects with the findings reported on the first day of this series when we pointed out that respondents reported economic hardships quite prominently. In our reports, we have drawn attention also to the class factor being relevant in shaping public attitudes and preferences. This is reflected quite clearly.

Finally, who are the respondents not favourably disposed to re-election of the government? The city and town dwellers are more likely to deny another chance to this government; similarly, respondents from less well-to-do economic backgrounds – those except the upper class – are more likely to say that this government should not get another chance. Predictably, the upper castes are most numerous in their endorsement of re-election (only one-third of the upper castes say that this government should not get another chance). But it must be said that those wanting to deny another chance to the government do not have a very sharp social profile – something that might insulate the government from a possible fallout of the negative opinion on the issue of re-election.

Suhas Palshikar is chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics

Table 1: Should the government get another chance?

	2004	2009*	2014	2019	2024
Yes	48	55	23	47	44
No	30	45	54	35	39
No response	22	--	23	18	17

Source: *National election studies done by CSDS-Lokniti over time.*
** In 2009, the options were only 'yes' and 'no'. The category of 'No response' was not provided*

Table 2: Reason for re-electing the incumbent government

Reason for giving another chance	%
Good work	42
Welfare schemes	18
Modi is a great leader	10
Construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya	8
Removing Article 370	6
India's international image	4
Protection of Hindu interests/Hindutva	4

Note: *Rest either gave other responses or did not respond*

Question asked: *Why should the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre get another chance?*

Table 3: Reason for not electing the incumbent government

Reason for the BJP-led NDA government to not get another chance	%
Increasing unemployment	32
Price rise/inflation	20
Falling/decreasing income	11
Dealing with corruption/scams	7
Bad governance	6
Favouring big business/ particular section of people	5
Worsening communalism/religious discrimination	5
Lack of economic growth	3
Issues related to farmers	2

Note: *Rest either gave other responses or did not respond*

Question asked: *Why should the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre not get another chance?*

ELECTIONS 2024

NC fields Omar and Mehdi in Kashmir Valley

National Conference (NC) president Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Friday announced the names of Omar Abdullah and Shia cleric Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi as the party's candidates from Baramulla and Srinagar constituencies, respectively, for the upcoming Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Omar Abdullah, while speaking on his nomination, sought to project the upcoming election as a fight between the BJP's proxies and the NC in the Kashmir Valley. While Mr. Omar Abdullah will be up against Sajad Lone of the J&K Peoples Conference (JKPC) in Baramulla, Mr. Mehdi will take on former Gupkar alliance partner and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Waheed-ur-Rehmaan Parra in central Kashmir's Srinagar seat.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah during a press conference in Srinagar on Friday. NISSAR AHMAD

EC eases process for Kashmiri migrant voters

In a major relief to Kashmiri migrant voters residing in Jammu and Udhampur, the Election Commission (EC) has done away with the complex procedure of filling Form M to be eligible to vote.

Through Form M, a Kashmiri migrant had to apply for transfer of his or her vote from Kashmir to a polling station outside the Kashmir Valley. Filing of this form was mandatory for displaced voters from the Valley ahead of every Lok Sabha and Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir.

Instead, the migrant voters would now be mapped with the special polling stations falling in the zones they are registered or residing in. The EC noted that the Form M procedure subjected the migrant voters to "additional bureaucratic hurdles".

"Those who had voted for the BJP should note that India has slipped in various indices on democracy and hunger

ABHISHEK BANERJEE
National general secretary, Trinamool Congress

Bikers zoom off for a cause in Aizawl

Election officials joined around 60 bikers in Aizawl, Mizoram on Friday to vroom for a cause — motivate people to exercise their franchise. "The idea behind the rally was to connect with the young and first-time voters," District Election Officer Nazuk Kumar said.

"They thought that if Kejriwal is sent to jail, Aam Aadmi Party will be finished. But, how will they imprison his ideas?

BHAGWANT MANN
Punjab Chief Minister

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) candidate Mohammed Faizal P.P. during his election campaign in Lakshadweep. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Islands buffeted by a storm of problems

S. Anandan
KOCHI

In the tiny Lok Sabha constituency of Lakshadweep, a Union Territory comprising a group of islands in the Arabian Sea, elections have usually been low-key affairs with little to attract any national attention. Those laid-back days are gone; in the run-up to the 2024 election, the islands' atmosphere is charged, thanks to the political ferment triggered by a series of reforms pushed by Praful Khoda Patel, a political appointee who took over as the Union Territory's administrator in December 2020.

Voting in the constituency, which is reserved for the Scheduled Tribes as the population of the archipelago is classified as ST, is held in the shadows of the protests that raged over the Dweep administration's alleged disregard for the islanders' cultural ethos, livelihood opportunities and basic needs. In 2014 and 2019, the electoral battle was between the Congress's Muhammed Hamdullah Sayeed and the Nationalist Congress Party's Mohammed Faizal P.P., which the latter won, the last time by a margin of 823 votes.

The old rivals, from Androth, which is the largest of the islands in the chain, are locking horns again. But the difference is that Mr. Faizal has been fielded by the Sharad Pawar faction of the NCP, while the NCP led by Ajit Pawar has T.P. Yousuf from Kadmat island as its candidate.

Mr. Faizal's last term as MP was marred by disqualification following his conviction in a case of attempt to murder and he got it suspended with the intervention of the Supreme Court. He views his disqualification as a fallout of the protests against the 'flawed' reforms, which he says have put the lives of the islanders on the line.

'Taking away rights'

Mr. Faizal accuses the Dweep administration of taking away people's lands, reducing employment opportunities and rolling back the systems including the arrangement for the visit of multispecialty doctors to the medical centres on the islands. "The worst of the moves was clipping the wings of the panchayats which had authority over five key departments including education and health. In an unconstitutional move, the administrator made the panchayats defunct," he alleges and accuses the Congress of remaining a mute spectator all through.

Mr. Sayeed, who represented the island constituency in the Lok Sabha in 2009, finds fault with the Dweep administration and the sitting MP for the ills. "There's been a marked decline in all sectors, including communication, transportation between islands and the mainland and education in comparison with their status under the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government," he alleges, accusing Mr. Faizal of colluding with the Centre. Mr. Sayeed flags the issue of rising unemployment, pointing a finger at the administration for disengaging thousands of people engaged in contractual jobs in many departments.

Mr. Yousuf feels that his record as a social worker will stand him in good stead. The absence of adequate berthing facilities on the islands and the sparse availability of petrol are among the issues he is highlighting.

The constituency has 57,784 voters consisting of 29,278 men and 28,506 women.

'BJP's goal is to have only one govt.'

The Congress veteran says the saffron party will use every rule to re-engineer the electoral map of India if it wins the upcoming polls; fervour for a 'militant, extreme, right-wing Hinduism' has worked in its favour in Hindi-speaking States though Hinduism is essentially 'more inclusive'

INTERVIEW

P. Chidambaram

B. Kolappan
KARAIKUDI

Veteran Congress leader and former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram feels that the fervour for militant, extreme, right-wing Hinduism is working in favour of the BJP in the Hindi belt. "Our Hinduism is more inclusive," he says. He speaks on a range of issues including the alleged misuse of Central agencies and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Edited excerpts:

How does the current Lok Sabha election differ from previous elections? The Opposition seems to be gripped with a sense of urgency and anxiety over its outcome.

I can speak authoritatively about the situation in Tamil Nadu. I can speak to some extent about the situation in southern States. In Tamil Nadu, the DMK-led alliance, the INDIA front, will score resoundingly as it did in 2019 and 2021. In Karnataka and Telangana we have governments today and hope to do far better than 2019 when we got two and three seats, respectively. In Kerala, I think the United Democratic Front will have a slight edge and nothing will be left for the BJP.

Do you think if the BJP is re-elected, the course of Indian politics and democracy will change?

It depends, if the BJP is elected to power. I hope it will not. Then, of course a new government will come to power in Delhi led by the INDIA front and we will reverse the damage that has happened in the last 10 years. We have said so in our manifesto. There is much work to be done to clean up the mess – legal, political, administrative.

If the BJP wins by a resounding majority, I have already cautioned that they will amend the Constitution. They will change the Westminster principles of parliamentary democracy. They don't believe in that. They will introduce some kind of electoral autocracy.

L. BALACHANDAR

What is the reason behind the substantial growth of the BJP?

What is working in favour of the BJP in the Hindi-speaking northern States is the fervour for different kinds of Hinduism: militant, extreme, right-wing Hinduism. We are Hindus. But our Hinduism and practice of Hinduism is very different. We have great temples for Lord Siva, Lord Muruga and Lord Vishnu. But each one in Tamil Nadu has a family deity, what we call *Siru Theivangal* (small gods): Mariamman, Muthmariamman, Vekkaliamman, Vaiya Karuppan. Our practice of Hinduism is more inclusive whereas the BJP is largely influenced by *Varnashrama*, the four caste divisions, which we reject.

The BJP has been accusing the Congress and other regional parties of promoting dynasty politics.

I have a long list of 110 leaders of the BJP who are dynastic. What does the BJP mean by accusing us of dynastic politics? If you point one finger, three fingers are pointing to yourself. The BJP minus (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi is full of sons and daughters (of political leaders).

Are the provisions of PMLA being misused?

It is. The PMLA is there in every country. But who has weaponised it? Are money laundering Acts in other countries used to throw dozens and hundreds of Opposition leaders in jail? This is happening only in India. It is no longer a law. It is a powerful weapon to browbeat the Opposition, prosecute them and imprison them. Eventually they will be acquitted. But the process is a punishment.

Do you believe the INDIA bloc would be able to defeat the BJP in the Hindi heartland?

In the Hindi heartland the fight is being led by two parties in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. One is the Samajwadi Party and the other is the RJD. If they put up a strong fight, those States account for 120 seats. In Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana, the fight is led by the Congress party and I hope we will do very well.

Do you think the BJP would redraw the boundaries of the Lok Sabha constituencies after the election?

One hundred per cent. They have already done it in Assam. They will use every law and every rule to re-engineer the electoral map of India. They broke down Jammu and Kashmir into three parts. Why do you think that they will not do it in Maharashtra or in Tamil Nadu? The BJP's goal is a single government at the Centre. All other units are like the old *palayams* (kingdoms). Reduce them to smaller sizes and keep them under their thumb. It is the national Opposition they want to destroy. I believe the BJP will amend the Constitution and steer India to a unitary form of government, making the government less responsible to the Parliament. It will be a more Presidential system and the States will become municipalities.

Adivasi identity, defections, national issues resonate in M.P.'s tribal belt

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

It is now less than a week to the first phase of the Lok Sabha election and as in the rest of the country, campaigning has reached its peak in Madhya Pradesh where six seats will go to the polls on April 19.

These seats are Chhindwara, Mandla (ST), Balaghat and Jabalpur of the Mahakoshal region, and Shahdol (ST) and Sidhi of the Vindhya region. In 2019, the BJP had won all except Chhindwara.

Top leaders of the two main parties in the State – the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress – including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi have campaigned here.

And while local issues of migration, employment and infrastructure were resonating on the ground earlier, national leaders have largely succeeded in making sure that the focus remains on subjects such as the Ram Temple, abrogation of Article 370, caste census and legal MSP for farmers. In his latest visit to Balaghat, Mr. Modi talked about everything from the freedom struggle to the G20 Summit in Delhi.

While each seat has its own caste equation that is going to play a crucial role in the polls, tribal voters are in a dominating position in all six constituencies with over 20% vote share in each of them, except Jabalpur, where it is about 15%.

All in readiness: Poll officials assemble EVMs and VVPAT machines during their training for the Lok Sabha polls, in Bhopal. A.M.FARUQUI

In 2019, the BJP had won five of the six seats that will be going to the polls on April 19

The test for Kamal Nath

Chhindwara, which has become synonymous with Congress veteran Kamal Nath, is the most highlighted constituency of the lot due to the BJP's aggressive campaigning against him and his son Nakul Nath, the sitting MP and party candidate. The BJP has fielded its district president Vivek 'Bunty' Sahu for the seat.

BJP national president J.P. Nadda held a rally in the Nath-family bastion on Friday and asked people to "bring a change" in Chhindwara. And though Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah have so far steered clear of campaigning in Chhindwara, the State unit of the BJP has taken the fight to the Naths with leaders like Kailash Vijayvargiya and Prahlad Patel having camped there for days.

Chief Minister Yadav has also held numerous rallies in Chhindwara. On Friday, he termed the Nath family an "outsider", and asked the people to ensure victory for the "local candidate".

On the other hand, the Nath family has this time centred its campaign on emotional lines with Mr. Kamal Nath, who has held the seat nine times since 1980, constantly saying that he "dedicated his life" for its development and that "Chhindwara has gained an identity over the years".

Top Congress leaders, including Mr. Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and national party president Mallikarjun Kharge, are yet to make a visit to the constituency. The move is believed to be a result of reports and rumours that were rife in the beginning of the year, later refuted by Mr. Kamal Nath, that he could shift loyalties and join the BJP.

With this, the contest in Chhindwara is more about Mr. Kamal Nath's legacy versus the ruling BJP than a battle between the two parties.

Mr. Nath is also battling a series of defections from the Congress to the ruling party.

Mandla (ST) is another hot seat where Union Minister and BJP candidate Faggan Singh Kulaste is battling personal anti-incumbency. The Congress here has fielded MLA and prominent tribal leader Omkar Singh Markaam, who had earlier lost to Mr. Kulaste in the 2014 general election.

In at least two constituencies, rebels and regional parties such as the Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) have made the contests interesting. Though the chances of their winning appear slim, they look to disturb the BJP and Congress's equations.

Congress, NPF devise strategies for Kuki-Zo outreach in Manipur

Abhinay Lakshman
KANGPOKPI/ CHURACHANDPUR

With large sections of Outer Manipur dominated by Kuki-Zo people set to vote on April 19 along with the Inner Manipur constituency, political parties are now creating backchannels to start talks with leaders of apex tribal bodies and civil society organisations (CSOs), making their own pitch to appeal to their sensibilities.

Amid the ongoing ethnic conflict in the State between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities, Kuki-Zo CSOs have called for their community members to refrain from contesting in the election. As a result, all candidates in the fray in Outer Manipur this time are from the Naga tribes, and each candidate is trying to carefully weave a thread of solidarity with the Kuki-Zo people – a tricky task given that the Naga tribes had declared neutrality when the conflict broke out last May.

The campaign strategy of the Congress's Alfred Kanngam Arthur for the Outer Manipur seat has so far been to start conversations with apex tribal bodies such as the Kuki Inpi Manipur and the Zomi Council. Multiple sources told *The Hindu* that the Congress's strategy is to try and build a platform of "larger tribal solidarity" within Manipur based on a rights-based approach.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party's ally – the Naga People's Front – is finding unique ways to position its candidate, Kachui Timothy Zimik, as one who can unite the two communities based on long-standing relationships between them. One of the officials leading the NPF's campaign in Manipur told *The Hindu*, "There are long-standing marital and familial relationships between the two communities. So we are reaching out to such leaders in their respective communities to reach out to the Kuki-Zo populace."

However, both the NPF and the Congress face a tough battle getting through to the Kuki-Zo voters beyond initiating conversations with the community's apex tribal bodies and their leadership.

Furthermore, while Mr. Arthur has been meeting with the community leaders in Churachandpur, his pitch for the Outer Manipur constituency has barely made it to the voters in the district, with most having no interest in the election and rather hoping to "have peace first".

On the other hand, the NPF is having to defend its alliance with the BJP whenever it reaches out to the Kuki-Zo community.

From Page One

Bengaluru cafe bomber, conspirator arrested

"The kingpins of this module that had been active for four years now have now been arrested," a senior official said. Month-long manhunt

The NIA said they were traced to their hideout to a lodge near Kolkata, where they were staying under false identities. After the NIA sought their help, the West Bengal police apprehended the accused.

The NIA said the month-long manhunt for the duo that ended on Friday morning was a coordinated effort of several Central agencies along with police forces of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal among other States.

"Mussavir Hussain Shazib was identified by the NIA as the man who planted the IED at the cafe, while Abdul Matheen Taha was the mastermind behind the conspiracy, and had planned and executed the explosion. It was Abdul Matheen who also worked on the escape plans and managed to evade arrest all these weeks for himself and his co-accused," the NIA said in a statement. The duo was presented before the NIA Special Court, Kolkata, which ordered their three-day transit remand.

Time is not far for J&K to get Statehood: Modi

This is the first time after August 2019 that he has referred to the restoration of Statehood.

His statement comes at a time when Jammu voters, especially in Hindu-majority areas, have started growing resentful of the downgrading of J&K into a Union Territory.

Congress leader Chaudhary Lal Singh has already started tapping into this growing anger in a bid to defeat the BJP's Jitendra Singh.

In an indirect reference to the viral video of Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav eating meat, Mr. Modi said: "I don't have a problem with whatever one eats, but I oppose those who instigate beliefs. They eat non-vegetarian food during Navratri and tease people by showing the video. By showing videos of non-vegetarian food during Navratri, by hurting the sentiments of people, who are they trying to please?", he alleged.

Challenging the Opposition parties to announce the restoration of provisions of Article 370, he said: "Terrorism, separatism and stone-throwing are no more election issues in J&K. The people of the country will not look towards the Congress if they talk of bringing back Article 370."

Inflation slowed, yet no relief on food bills

Economists reckoned that the ongoing heatwave could spike food inflation in coming months. Even as crude oil prices are firming up and an inflation spike in the U.S. may delay hopes of interest rate cuts from the Federal Reserve, sticky food inflation at home could further dampen prospects of rate cuts from India's central bank. While March's inflation rate is still aloof from the bank's stated 4% target, average retail price rise in the last quarter of 2023-24 has been 5.01%, in line with the 5% average projected by the Reserve Bank of India.

The ongoing April to June quarter is, however, expected to see an average inflation of 4.9%, as per the RBI.

Vegetables' inflation

Within the food basket, vegetables inflation cooled marginally from the seven-month high of 30.25% in February to 28.3% last month. A similar easing was recorded in pulses (up 17.7% in March from 18.5% in February), eggs (up 10.33% from 10.7%), and sugar (up 7.25% compared with 7.5% in February).

Bengaluru blast: Trinamool, BJP trade barbs over arrests

BJP says West Bengal has become safe haven for terrorists; Mamata Banerjee counters that suspects were held within two hours after they reached State; police say it was a joint operation

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Election mode: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addressing a public rally in Cooch Behar district. PTI

The arrest of two accused in the Bengaluru cafe blast case from West Bengal on Friday triggered a war of words between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP in the State ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was quick to respond to charges made by BJP leaders that West Bengal has become a "safe haven for terrorists".

"They [the accused] were here for two hours and were arrested within those two hours following a prompt response by police. What about the States where you [BJP] are in power?" Ms. Banerjee said in Cooch Behar. "What about Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat and Bihar. Are these places safe," she asked.

Within hours of the arrest of the two accused, Mussavir Hussain Shazib and Abdul Matheen Ahmed Taahaa, from a hotel in New Digha in Purba Medinipur district, BJP co-incharge of West Bengal Amit Malaviya posted on X, "NIA detains two chief suspects in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast, bomber Mussavir Hussain Shazib and accomplice Abdul Matheen Ahmed Taahaa, from Kolkata. Both likely belong to ISIS cell in Shivamogga, Karnataka. West Bengal, unfortunately, under Mamata Banerjee, has become a safe haven for terrorists."

The West Bengal Police was quick to point out that the arrest was a result of a "joint operation" with the National Investigation Agency (NIA). "Contrary to the claims made by @amitmalviya, the fact is that, two suspects in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case have been arrested from Purba Medinipur in a JOINT operation by the West Bengal Police and the Central Intelligence Agencies," the State police posted on X.

The police said, "West Bengal has NEVER been a safe haven for terrorists and the State police will continue to remain ever-vigilant in keeping its people safe from nefarious activities" and added that the "proactive role of WBP in the matter has been officially acknowledged by the Central Agencies".

Later in the day, the accused were produced in a city court which granted their three-day transit remand to the NIA. The accused had stayed at a few hotels in Kolkata's Esplanade area before visiting New Digha, a tourist spot.

Leaders from the BJP raised questions on why the accused were in West Bengal. Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari said due to appeasement politics of the Trinamool government, the State is being linked to various terror activities over the last few years.

Trinamool spokesperson Kunal Ghosh congratulated the West Bengal Police and targeted Mr. Adhikari who has a considerable influence in Purba Medinipur district.

Ban on Shabir Shah's outfit JKDFP upheld by UAPA tribunal

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A tribunal has upheld the Union government's decision to declare the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP), founded by separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah, an "unlawful association" under the anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The ban is effective for five years.

The tribunal's order quoted a chargesheet filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in 2019 which stated that, in 2016, the "Pakistan government" had sent ₹1.1 crore to Shah to be distributed among the people who attacked security forces with stones after Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani was killed in an encounter.

The NIA said that the money sent from Pakistan clearly showed that Shah, along with others, "is at the centre of the conspiracy to promote lawlessness and violence in Jammu and Kashmir orchestrated with an intention to secure secession of J&K from the Union of India".

Shah has been in jail since July 2017 when he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a case which the agency had registered in 2007. The tribunal order mentions 40 cases filed against him.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs, in a background note, said that "to subvert democracy in J&K during 2002-04, JKDFP, on the instructions of the cross-border agency, persuaded the people to boycott the elections in Kashmir."

"In May 2006, Shabir Ahmad Shah continued to be an obedient mouthpiece of Pakistan establishment, urging India to resume dialogue with Pakistan, while advocating for involvement of militant leadership in the dialogue process. In 2015, he also welcomed the statement of former Pakistan Army Chief General Raheel Sharif that Kashmir was an unfinished agenda of Partition. He also termed Pakistan's role with regard to the Kashmir dispute as crucial," the note said.

Oral remark by SC judge triggers online vitriol against him

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah's oral remark "we will rip you apart" directed at the Uttarakhand State Licensing Authority (Ayurveda and Unani Services) during the Patanjali contempt case hearing in the Supreme Court has triggered online vitriol against the judge.

On April 10, the Bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Amanullah was addressing the ineptitude shown by the State authority to investigate the advertisements of Ayurvedic medicines manufactured by Divya Pharmacy, a company founded by yoga guru Baba Ramdev and his close associate Acharya Balkrishna, both of whom are facing contempt proceedings.

The dictionary meaning of the phrase 'rip apart' is 'to completely destroy something by tearing it into pieces'. A physical act. It also means 'to criticise in a very harsh or angry way'. Criticism from the Bench is a phenomenon which occurs often in the Supreme Court as part of its constitutional duty as the sentinel on the qui vive (watchful guardian of the fundamental rights of citizens).

The two judges had used several other epithets against the authority, including "twiddling your thumbs", "deep slumber", "pushing files", "dereliction of duty" and "do you want us to fall on your officers like a ton of bricks".

The judges had made it clear that the court's majesty and sworn objective to do right by the citizens cannot be trifled with. The hearing had ended with the court showing great restraint towards the authority. It had refrained from issuing contempt notice against the State entity, giving it, in the spirit of natural justice, an opportunity to file a detailed affidavit to explain itself. In 2019, Justice Arun Mishra (retd) had said that maligning a judge was akin to maligning the Supreme Court itself.

BJP says INDIA bloc held together by 'glue of graft', raises 2G spectrum case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia at a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Even as the INDIA bloc held a rally in Tamil Nadu on Friday, the BJP attacked the Opposition coalition, terming it an alliance held together "by the glue of corruption".

Addressing a press conference at the BJP's headquarters in New Delhi, party spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said that the "Gandhis are the most corrupt" family", and raised the 2G spectrum case involving the then-Telecom Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam leader A. Raja.

The Opposition has refuted charges of corruption by pointing to the acquittal of all accused, including Mr. Raja, in the 2G case. Mr. Bhatia, however, noted that the Supreme Court had cancelled all the 122 licences allotted due to malpractices, and expressed confidence that the Delhi High Court would consider the CBI's appeal and convict the guilty.

He alleged that the DMK stands for "deceit, malpractice and kleptomania", adding that the Dravidian party is a habitual "robber" of public money. He noted that DMK leader V. Senthilbalaji continued to be a Minister in the Tamil Nadu government for months after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a corruption case.

Mr. Bhatia also referred to the alleged insult of *Sanatan Dharma* by Mr. Raja and fellow DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin, and the silence maintained by the Congress over it, accusing the Opposition of "sowing religious discord and division". In contrast, he said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had dubbed Tamil Nadu as India's pride and visited its temples as part of special rituals in the run-up to the Ram temple's consecration ceremony to foster brotherhood as enshrined in the Constitution.

The INDIA bloc rally in Tamil Nadu was addressed by the State's Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

PM's remarks on choice of food infantile, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments on "which leader ate what and in which month" are signs of "panic" and reflect a "sick mindset", the Congress said on Friday.

The party was responding to a comment made by Mr. Modi at a rally at Udhampur in Jammu. He had taken a dig at Opposition leaders for uploading videos of them eating non-vegetarian food during Navratras or cooking mutton and eating it during the holy month of Shravan. Mr. Modi said such acts displayed a "Mughal mindset" of disrespecting the sentiments of the people.

Though Mr. Modi did not name anyone, he seemed to be referring to RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, who uploaded a video of himself eating fish, and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who released a video of himself learning a mutton recipe from RJD supremo Lalu Prasad.

India shifts its Myanmar staff to Yangon over conflict

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In view of the ongoing conflict between the military junta of Myanmar and the Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs), India has "temporarily moved" the staff from its consulate in Sittwe in the Rakhine province, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, announced on Friday.

"India has temporarily moved staff from its consulate in Sittwe to Yangon in view of the fighting in Rakhine state of Myanmar. Our consulate in Mandalay remains fully functional," said Mr. Jaiswal confirming the removal of the Indian officials from the strategically important location.

Third of land conflicts in constituencies where forest rights key issue for election

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Land issue: Nearly 44% of the 117 conflicts were triggered by conservation and forestry projects. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Nearly a third of land-related conflicts are in Lok Sabha constituencies where the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) is an "important" election issue, says an analysis by Land Conflict Watch, a comprehensive database of land-related conflicts in India.

Out of the 781 conflicts in the database, 264 conflicts were mapped to constituencies where FRA is a key issue. Notably, 117 land conflicts were found to directly affect forest dwelling communities and involve nearly 2.1 lakh hectares of land as well as 6.1 lakh people, the analysis released on Friday noted.

Nearly 44% of the 117 conflicts were triggered due to conservation and forestry projects, such as plantations, and involved forest administration. "This suggests that the main adversarial party in such conflicts is the Forest department," said Anmol Gupta, one of the authors of the report.

About 88% of the conflicts involve non-implementation or violation of key provisions of the FRA. Other major points of conflict are the lack of legal protection over land rights, forced evictions, dispossession of land. About 110 conflicts are in constituencies reserved for Scheduled Tribes and 77 in constituencies reserved for Scheduled Castes.

Maharashtra, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh have the highest number of "core" FRA constituencies, defined as where more than 20% of the resident electorate are eligible to claim rights available under the FRA.

The States with the maximum number of conflicts involving forest rights issues in FRA-critical constituencies are Odisha, Chhattisgarh and the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The latest estimates from the Centre say that as of February 2024, 2.45 million titles have been accorded to tribal and forest dwellers. Until the same period, five million claims to title have been received, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs noted, with about 34% of claims having been rejected.

Defer travel to Israel, Iran, says Centre's advisory

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India has urged its citizens not to travel to Israel and Iran against the backdrop of escalating military tensions between the two West Asian rivals. The advisory came after the April 1 Israeli strike against Iran's embassy in Damascus, Syria, that killed several top Iranian commanders.

"All Indians are advised not to travel to Iran or Israel till further notice. All those who are residing in Iran or Israel are requested to get in touch with Indian Embassies. They are also requested to restrict their movements to the minimum," an advisory issued by the Ministry of External Affairs stated on Friday.

India welcomes steps by Taliban to restore assets to minorities

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India has welcomed the Taliban's initiative to restore property to the minority Sikhs and Hindus of Afghanistan. In a bid to cleanse Afghanistan's major cities of 'property mafia', the 'Justice Ministry' of the Taliban administration in Kabul in recent weeks has initiated a large-scale crackdown on the owners of properties who had gained these illegally in the previous decades.

Responding to a question from *The Hindu* during the weekly press briefing, Randhir Jaiswal, Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, on Friday said, "We have seen reports on this issue. If the Taliban administration has decided to restore property rights to their citizens belonging to Afghan Hindu and Sikh community, we see this as a positive development."

The Hindu had earlier reported that following the decision of the 'Justice Ministry', Narender Singh Khalsa, a Sikh leader from Afghanistan, has returned to Kabul after the Taliban assured him and other members of the minority religious communities that their property rights would be safeguarded. Recently, the 'Justice Ministry' issued notice to the influential Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the leader of Hezb-e-Islami, asking him to evacuate the bungalow that he possessed in Kabul.

INBRIEF

Vodafone Idea announces FPO of ₹18,000 crore

The Board of Directors of Vodafone Idea Ltd. (VIL), at its meeting held on April 11 approved a further public offering (FPO) of equity shares, aggregating up to ₹18,000 crore. "The Capital Raising Committee in its meeting held today, i.e. April 12, 2024, approved the price band for the FPO issuance," the company said. The price band is fixed at ₹10-11 per share with face value of ₹10 each. Applicants can bid for 1,298 shares in one lot or in multiples of 1,298 shares thereafter.

TAI seeks release of 'pending' subsidies from Tea Board

The Tea Association of India (TAI) on Friday sought the release of "pending subsidies" from the Tea Board to carry out developmental activities undertaken at various gardens. The industry body said in a statement that gardens under its fold had undertaken substantial developmental activities under the scheme, and a large portion of the amount due to the estates on account of this "still remains unreleased by the Tea Board". PTI

Godfrey Phillips to exit from retail business 24Seven

Cigarette maker Godfrey Phillips India on Friday said it has decided to exit from its loss-making retail business 24Seven. The board of the company, in a meeting held on Friday, "decided to exit from carrying out the business operations of its Retail Business Division," according to a regulatory update. Godfrey Phillips India was operating 150 stores/kiosks of 24Seven as of December 2023. The exit will be subject to completion of necessary formalities, it said. PTI

Industrial output grew 5.7% in Feb.; production levels at 3-month low

Index of Industrial Production points to year-on-year output hitting a four-month high, led by an 8% growth in mining activity and a 7.5% surge in electricity generation; non-durables' output shrank again while durables grew by double digits

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's year-on-year industrial output growth rebounded to a four-month high of 5.7% in February, from January's upgraded 4.1% pace, led by an 8% growth in mining and a 7.5% surge in electricity generation, even as consumption remained uneven with non-durables' output contracting again while durables grew in the double digits.

However, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) slid to a three-month low of 147.2, with output levels dipping 4.1% from January. Sequential contractions were recorded in manufacturing, mining and electricity, as well as the six use-based classifications of factory output.

Year-on-year manufacturing growth picked up slightly to 5%, from January's 3.6%, but base effects skewed the trends in four of the six use-based classifications. Consumer durables output surged the most at 12.3% aided by a 4.1% contraction in February 2023, while non-durables shrank 3.8%, impacted by the year-earlier period's 12.5% increase.

Capital goods output grew just 1.2%, following an 11% rise in February 2023. Primary goods and infrastructure/construction goods, by contrast rose 5.9% and 8.5%, respectively, on top of healthy upticks last year. However the two segments posted output lower than January, with primary goods at a three-month low.

"The IIP growth is impressive although not broad-based," remarked Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis, adding that consumer goods were still to recover while infrastructure-linked industries had done better.

Despite positive base effects from March 2023, ICRA's Aditi Nayar noted that IIP growth was likely to have eased to a range of 4.5%-5.5% last month.

Uneven consumption

IIP data shows consumption remains uneven: non-durables' output contracted while durables saw double-digit growth

- The IIP slid to a three-month low of 147.2, with output dipping 4.1% from January
- Manufacturing, mining, electricity as well as the six use-based classifications of factory output logged sequential contractions

- Consumer durables output surged the most YoY, at 12.3%

TCS Q4 net rises 9% as margins improve, proposes ₹28 dividend

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) reported fourth-quarter net profit grew 9.1% year-on-year to ₹12,434 crore on better margins and performance.

Revenue increased 3.5% to ₹61,237 crore. Operating margin at 26% saw an expansion of 150 basis points (bps) while net margin expanded 100 bps to 20.3%, the company said.

The growth was led by India (+37.9%), U.K. (+6.2%), and Manufacturing (+9.7%). The board proposed a final dividend of ₹28 per share. For the full year, net profit rose 10.5% to ₹46,585 crore while revenue climbed 6.8% to ₹2,40,893 crore. TCS announced a pay rise for its more than six lakh staff in the range of 4.5% to 7%.

Top performers secured a double-digit rise. The firm plans to hire about 40,000 freshers in FY25.

"We are very pleased to close Q4 and FY24 on a strong note with the highest-ever order book and a 26% operating margin, validating the robustness of business model," said CEO and MD K. Krithivasan.

He added North America and Europe 'de-grew' 2.3% and 2% respectively reflecting uncertainties in major markets.

"In FY 2024, our disciplined approach to operations have helped us expand our industry-leading margins," CFO Samir Seksaria said.

Moody's Analytics says India GDP to grow at 6.1% in 2024

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Moody's Analytics projected India's economy to expand 6.1% in 2024, lower than 7.7% growth in 2023.

It said output in India remains 4% lower than it would have been without the COVID-19 pandemic and its various aftershocks – from supply snags to military conflicts abroad.

In its report titled 'APAC Outlook: Listening Through the Noise', Moody's Analytics said looking at GDP relative to its trajectory prior to the pandemic showed India and Southeast Asia have seen some of the largest output losses worldwide and are only beginning to recover. With regard to inflation, it said the outlook for China and India is more uncertain.

With regard to inflation, Moody's unit said the outlook for China and India is more uncertain

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	74,245	-1.06
US Dollar	83.38	-0.08
Gold	73,350	1.87
Brent oil	90.97	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3209.90	-32.10
Adani Ports	1344.20	-8.10
Apollo Hosp	6406.55	-83.30
Asian Paints	2854.50	-42.25
Axis Bank	1073.45	-14.35
Bajaj Auto	9064.85	59.30
Bajaj Finserv	1698.65	-5.45
Bajaj Finance	7229.55	-0.70
Bharti Airtel	1225.55	-3.85
BPCL	601.20	-3.55
Britannia Ind	4751.75	-56.95
Cipla	1396.80	-26.15
Coal India	455.60	-0.75
Divis Lab	3779.70	40.60
Dr Reddys Lab	6083.85	-74.05
Eicher Motors	4302.25	-12.85
Grasim Ind	2254.05	-52.30
HCL Tech	1521.50	-17.65
HDFC Bank	1518.95	-17.40
HDFC Life	618.50	-3.00
Hero MotoCorp	4440.80	-54.10
Hindalco	598.65	-4.40
Hind Unilever	2232.30	-28.60
ICICI Bank	1104.40	-5.00
IndusInd Bank	1555.65	2.80
Infosys	1484.75	-22.05
ITC	430.10	-6.85
JSW Steel	866.45	-17.50
Kotak Bank	1813.05	-12.90
L&T	3679.25	-73.95
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4888.90	-29.45
M&M	2070.95	-5.25
Maruti Suzuki	12266.55	-416.20
NestleIndia	2536.20	8.60
NTPC	361.75	-0.75
ONGC	265.70	-6.30
PowerGrid Corp	275.25	-7.30
Reliance Ind	2934.30	-24.85
SBI Life	1493.15	-10.20
State Bank	766.30	-12.75
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2485.60	-42.45
Sun Pharma	1540.00	-64.05
TataConsumerProduct	1149.45	4.15
Tata Motors	1018.50	5.00
Tata Steel	163.50	-1.55
TCS	4001.40	16.75
Tech Mahindra	1242.10	-24.20
Titan	3619.30	-91.90
UltraTech Cement	9652.55	-165.30
Wipro	470.75	-6.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 12

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.21	83.53
Euro	88.65	88.99
British Pound	103.87	104.28
Japanese Yen (100)	54.26	54.48
Chinese Yuan	11.50	11.54
Swiss Franc	91.10	91.46
Singapore Dollar	61.21	61.45
Canadian Dollar	60.54	60.78
Malaysian Ringitt	17.43	17.52
Australian Dollar	54.03	54.24

Source:Indian Bank

TRAI moots allowing only Indian entities in 'regulatory sandboxes'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Only Indian nationals or entities should be eligible to participate in telecom regulatory sandboxes that can provide real-time but regulated access to network and customer resources during product or technology tests, TRAI recommended on Friday.

The Telecommunications Act, 2023, has introduced the provision of setting up multiple regulatory sandboxes. The regulatory sandbox (RS) will allow the testing of new products, services, processes, and business models in a live testing environment on a limited set of users for a specified period of time after obtaining specified regulatory relaxations.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended that the Department of Telecom shall put in place an end-to-end digital process to handle RS applications and all related activities, including intimations, approvals, sharing of information, monitoring, etc.

"Only Indian nationals or entities will be eligible," TRAI said in its recommendation on "Encouraging Innovative Technologies, Services, Use Cases, and Business Models through Regulatory Sandbox in Digital Communication Sector".

TRAI has mooted a non-refundable processing fee of ₹10,000 for the applications.

During the testing period, applicants will need to demonstrate ways to prioritise the protection of consumer interests.

Indian realty market to reach $1.5 tn by 2034: Knight Frank

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian real estate market is expected to reach $1.5 trillion by 2034, contributing 10.5% to economic output, according to a joint study by Knight Frank India and the Confederation of Indian Industry.

According to the report titled 'Indian Real Estate: A Decade from Now', the residential market is expected to lead with a value of $906 billion, followed by the office sector contributing $125 billion.

Also, land for manufacturing activities is estimated to generate a value of $28 billion, driven by rising demand in India, while warehousing is projected to yield revenues of $8.9 billion.

India's economic growth in the next decade would depend heavily on several factors, including a growing young population, bolstered domestic manufacturing, infrastructure development, and urban expansion, according to the report.

"Under favourable conditions for these drivers and assuming an annual 2% depreciation of the INR to dollar exchange rate, India's GDP could potentially reach $10.3 trillion by 2034," the study added.

In 2023, the sector's market size was approximately $482 billion, contributing 7.3% to the total economic output.

Wipro must focus on creating value, cut low-cost services: Everest Group

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Wipro Ltd. has a long way to go to attain a balanced position in the global tech markets, indicated Peter Bendor-Samuel, founder and CEO of Dallas-based Everest Group.

The global analyst in an interaction with *The Hindu* said the Bengaluru-based tech firm did not keep pace with its peers as the company has positioned itself as a low-cost provider over the decades while its peers remained more balanced and focused on value.

'20 years of decline'

"Wipro has had a slowly deteriorating market position for almost 20 years," Mr. Samuel said. He observed that Wipro's focus on providing low-cost services ha been at the expense of investing in capabilities and assets that help clients get value.

But he added that Thierry Delaporte, the French CEO of Wipro's who recently resigned a year ahead of his five-year contract at the country's third largest tech firm, put it on a path of transformation and rebalance by increasing its focus on value. "To summarise, at this time Wipro does not successfully compete in the value-added part of the market. Unfortunately, being too focused on the cost-saving part means, that it is more difficult for it to grow. To their credit they are undergoing a transformation and putting significant investment into new capabilities. But, there is still a long way to go," he said.

Peter Bendor-Samuel

'Firm must invest over several years and accept profit margins below industry norms'

Mr. Samuel added that Srinivas Pallia, who replaced Mr. Delaporte on April 6, "must continue the transformation journey that Delaporte began."

New CEO's task

"Srini is faced with continuing the transformation of adding higher value services at Wipro, and getting Wipro back to a high level of performance. His biggest challenge in the immediate future will be the poor tech and tech services macro environment," Mr. Samuel observed.

Fortunately, the new leader will have at least a year's leeway, as investors are likely to give him some time and it is likely that by that time the macro environment will begin turning around, anticipated Mr. Samuel.

'Lean focus'

"Srini's longer-term issues will be to continue the transformation Thierry began. He will need to continue to add new capabilities, continue to add new talent and run a lean-focused firm," he opined.

'Thin profit years'

However, Mr. Samuel added, "this transformation would not come cheap for Wipro because if the tech firm is looking to successfully reposition itself as a leader in a new and changed marketplace, it would have to make market investments over several years and likely would need to keep profit margins below industry norms until this transformation is finished."

Omega Seiki introduces 'fast-charging' 3-wheeler EV

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Electric Vehicles (EV) manufacturer Omega Seiki Mobility in a tie up with battery manufacturer Exponent Energy has introduced OSM Stream City Qik, a passenger electric three-wheeler that can be fast-charged in 15 minutes on Exponent's rapid-charging network.

Targeted at auto drivers, the EV is priced at ₹3,24,999 (ex-showroom).

The vehicle comes with a warranty of 2,00,000 km or five years – whichever comes first, paving the way for better financing options and ease of ownership.

The product is expected to raise the earning potential of drivers as the 15-minute charging capability would minimise downtime between rides and maximise the efficiency on the road, the company said.

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E-mail:-acepbpr@gmail.com, aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

Notice Inviting Bid No. 14/2023-24 Corrigendum No. 01

Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT No. 14/2023-24 has been extended and last date of submission has been made as 15.04.2024.

Other terms and conditions will remain same as per original NIT.

UBN No:- PHE2324WLOB15202

(Mahesh Jangir)
Additional Chief Engineer (Project)
PHED Bharatpur
DIPR/C/9372/2024

READ
SPORTSTAR
EVERY FORTNIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE,
VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in
/subscribe

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar,
New Delhi – 110029

DNB/DrNB FINAL THEORY EXAMINATION – MAY 2024

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the next DNB/DrNB Final Theory Examinations on **15th, 16th, 17th and 18th May 2024.**

Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website https://natboard.edu.in for eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates

Availability of Information Bulletin	2nd April 2024 Onwards
Online Submission of the Application Form	2nd April 2024 (3 PM Onwards) to 22nd April 2024 (Till 11:55 PM)
Date of Examination	15th ,16th , 17th and 18th May 2024

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
- Helpline Portal on applicant login page
- Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E-mail:-acepbpr@gmail.com, aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

Notice Inviting Bid No. 13/2023-24 Corrigendum No. 01

Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT No. 13/2023-24 has been extended and last date of submission has been made as 15.04.2024.

Other terms and conditions will remain same as per original NIT.

UBN No:- PHE2324WLOB15169

(Mahesh Jangir)
Additional Chief Engineer (Project)
PHED Bharatpur
DIPR/C/9371/2024

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-A

No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-27(A)/23-24 **Dt:12.04.2024**

Kindly refer to E-PublicTender - 27/23-24 dt 19.03.24 **"Term Contract for Civil works @ SLP areas, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-23-102, Est. cost ₹ 80.00 Lakhs); **"Civil repair & painting works @ SHAR Hospital"** (T/C-23-105, Est. cost ₹ 18.61 Lakhs); **"Replacement of damaged joinery items in 90 Nos of Qtrs, PHC-I & II"** (T/C-23-107, Est. cost ₹ 34.43 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 29.04.2024**. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

COLOMBO

Elections due by October could dent Sri Lanka's recovery: ADB

REUTERS

Sri Lanka's recovery could be stalled by abrupt policy changes after presidential polls due by October even as the economy showed signs of stabilising, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) warned on Friday. The ADB also warned that any delay in restructuring Sri Lanka's external debt could also impact prospects. AFP

BERLIN

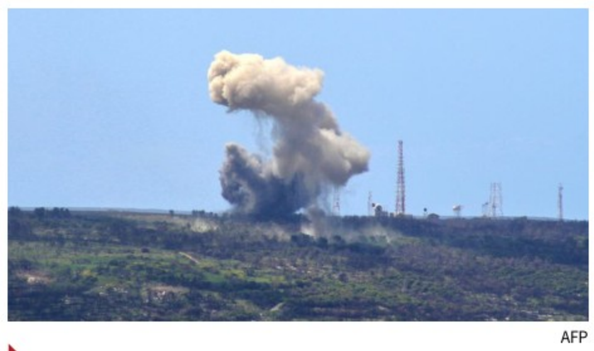
Four teenagers detained in Germany over 'Islamist attack' plot

AFP

Police have detained two girls and two boys — all teenagers — in western Germany on suspicion that they were planning an Islamist attack, prosecutors said on Friday. Three arrested, aged 15 to 16, had also "committed to carrying out a crime — murder and manslaughter", Duesseldorf prosecutors said. AFP

BEIRUT

Hezbollah says it fired 'dozens' of rockets at Israeli positions



AFP

Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group said it fired "dozens of Katyusha rockets" at Israeli artillery positions on Friday, a bombardment it said was in response to Israeli strikes in the south. The Israeli Army said "approximately 40 launches were identified crossing from Lebanese territory, no injuries were reported". AFP

NUKU'ALOFA

China defends security offer to Tonga for Pacific islands summit

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

China said on Friday it is offering security assistance to Tonga for a Pacific islands summit, but swatted away concerns about its ambitions in the hotly contested region. Tonga, a Pacific kingdom of fewer than 1,10,000 people, says it needs help to host the August 26 annual meeting of the 26-member Pacific Island Forum. AFP

West Asia on edge amid fears of Iran's hit

Iran's Foreign Minister says a response to 'Israel's attack' on its consular premises in Damascus is a 'necessity', Israel says it is ready for any response from Tehran and vows to strike back; several countries, including India and the U.S., issue security and travel advisories to their citizens in the region

Stanly Johny
JERUSALEM

West Asia continued to stay on edge on Friday amid fears of an imminent attack by Iran targeting Israel in retaliation against the April 1 air strike on Iran's consular annex in Damascus, Syria, with several countries, including India, the U.S. Russia and France, issuing travel and security alerts to their citizens.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has vowed to punish the "evil regime" of Israel after the attack on the consular building in which Mohammad Reza Zahedi, a high-ranking commander of the Quds Force, the elite wing of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, was assassinated. Iran and Syria immediately blamed Israel for the strike. Israel has neither confirmed nor dismissed its role in the attack. "The question is not if but when. The Supreme Leader, the government and senior military leaders have all warned that a response is coming. Iran cannot back off this time," a strategic analyst based in Tehran with close links to the regime told *The Hindu* on the phone, requesting anonymity.

On Thursday, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian reiterated that Iran's response is a necessity. "When the Israeli regime completely violates the immunity of individuals and diplomatic places in violation of international law and the Vienna Conventions, legitimate defence is a necessity," Mr. Abdollahian told his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock in a phone call, Iran's *Mehr* news agency reported.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei pays tributes to the members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps killed in the Damascus attack. REUTERS

In Israel, political leaders as well as military and diplomatic officials said they were ready for any scenario. Asked if it was Israel that carried out the Damascus attack, Michael Ronen, head of South and Southeast Asia Division at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said: "They say Israel carried out the strike. Well, I don't know. What I can say is that Israel is ready for any response from Iran." American media reported on Friday, citing U.S. and Iranian sources, that an Iranian attack could come within the next 48 hours.

Mr. Khamenei is considering different options, from launching direct strikes using drones and missiles on Israel from Iran to attacking Israeli assets in the region, either directly or through proxies, according to these reports. Israeli leaders have warned that they will strike inside Iran if the origin of the attack is Iran.

'Godfather of militias'

"Hamas, Houthis, Hezbollah and the Islamic Jihad... what do all these terrorist entities have in common? Iran is the godfather of all of them," Yossi Zilberman, deputy spokesperson of the MFA, told *The Hindu* here. "Unless Iran is reined in, there won't be peace in the Middle East," he said.

Israel has frozen all leaves for combat units "in accordance with the situational assessments" and drafted reservists to strengthen for air defences. The IDF has also scrambled the GPS system, which could be used to confuse incoming weapons. On Thursday, those who turned on their GPS in Tel Aviv found that their location was shown in Beirut. In the northern settlement of Tefen in the Upper Galilee region, close to the Lebanese border, the GPS showed the location of Syrian Golan.

The U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem on Friday told American citizens in Israel that the "security environment remains complex". U.S. government employees and their family members were asked not to travel "outside the greater Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Be'er Sheva areas until further notice".

India's Ministry of External Affairs advised Indians not to travel to Iran and Israel until further notice. "All those who are currently residing in Iran or Israel are requested to get in touch with Indian Embassies there and register themselves," it said.

(The reporter was in Israel as part of a media delegation)

China urges U.S. to play 'constructive role' in West Asia

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Blinken used the call to ask Beijing to use its influence to dissuade Iran from striking Israel

China urged the United States to play "a constructive role" in the West Asia on Friday after its top diplomat Wang Yi spoke with his U.S. counterpart Antony Blinken over the phone.

Mr. Blinken used the call to ask Beijing to use its influence to dissuade Iran from striking Israel, the State Department said. Concerns of retaliation by Tehran have grown after an Israeli strike on April 1 levelled an Iranian diplomatic building in Damascus.

On Friday, China confirmed the call had taken place, saying Mr. Wang "expressed China's strong condemnation of the attack" while emphasising the "inviolable" right to security of diplomatic institutions and the need to respect the sovereignty of Iran and Syria.

"China will continue to play a constructive role in the resolution of the West Asia issue... and contribute to cooling down the situation," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning added.

Iran's clerical leadership has vowed to strike back after the attack, which killed seven members of the Islamic Republic's elite Revolutionary Guards, including two generals.

The United States has repeatedly made public appeals for China to do more to address the crisis, including through pressure on Iran, which supports Hamas.

2022 draft can be used as starting point for peace talks, says Russia

Associated Press
MOSCOW

The Kremlin said on Friday that a draft Russia-Ukraine agreement negotiated in 2022 could serve as a starting point for prospective talks to end the fighting that has dragged into a third year.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that the draft document that was discussed in Istanbul in March 2022 could be "the basis for starting negotiations".

At the same time, he noted that the possible future talks would need to take into account the "new realities".

"There have been many changes since then, new entities have been included in our constitution," Mr. Peskov said in a conference call with presspersons.

In September 2022, Russia annexed four Ukrainian regions in a move that Kyiv and its Western allies have rejected as an unlawful.

Mr. Peskov's statement followed Russian President Vladimir Putin's comments on Thursday, in which he mocked prospective Ukraine peace talks that Switzerland is set to host in June, warning that Moscow will not accept any enforced peace plans.

"We are ready for constructive work, but we wouldn't accept any attempts to enforce a position that isn't based on the realities," Mr. Putin said during a meeting in Moscow with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

Military trainers from Russia arrive in Niger

Associated Press
DAKAR

State television in Niger has broadcast footage of Russian military trainers arriving in the country aboard a plane equipped with military supplies to boost its air defences amid deteriorating relations between Niger and the U.S.

Two Russian trainers were filmed in front of the plane wearing military uniforms, caps and face coverings. The plane arrived on Wednesday night, the report said, and carried military supplies to help Niger improve its air defences.

"We are here to train the Nigerian Army to use the military equipment that is here," one of the Russian trainers said in French in Thursday's broadcast. "We are here to develop military cooperation between Russia and Niger."

Until recently, Washington considered Niger a key partner and ally in a region swept by attempted coups in recent years.

Top Chinese official in North Korea for talks on bilateral ties

Associated Press
SEOUL

Zhao Leji is one of the seven members of the Politburo Standing Committee

A top Chinese official arrived in North Korea and held talks on how to boost their cooperation, North Korea's state media reported on Friday, in the counties' highest-level meeting in about five years.

Zhao Leji, who is chairman of China's National People's Congress and considered the No. 3 official in the ruling Communist Party, arrived in North Korea on Thursday. China earlier said he will stay in North Korea until Saturday.

Mr. Zhao met his North Korean counterpart Choe Ryong Hae later on Thursday and discussed how to promote exchanges and cooperation on all areas such as politics, economy and culture, the North's official *Korean Central News Agency* reported. The two also exchanged views on unspecified regional and international issues of mutual concerns, *KCNA* said.

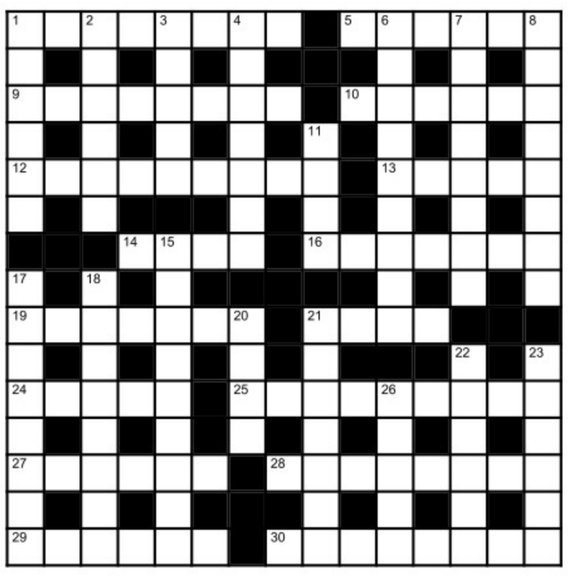
Mr. Zhao is one of the seven members of the Politburo Standing Committee, the Communist Party's top leadership body headed by Chinese leader Xi Jinping. Mr. Zhao's visit to North Korea marked the first bilateral exchange involving a Chinese Politburo Standing Committee member since the coronavirus pandemic started.

TH CROSSWORD + 14148

(set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Rigidity of government initially blocks drive for improvement (8)
5 I can't possibly drink tonic, essentially astringent (6)
9 Warning sign guided correctly, says Spooner (3,5)
10 Spot betel leaves in Indian chair (6)
12 Online workers in America had to develop (9)
13 Gamekeeper's beginning to look at headless lizard (5)
14 Finally have milk, pulse as supplements (4)
16 Chennai's sure to shelter revolutionary European (7)
19 / 26D Unstable structure where Jack resides? (5,2,5)
21 Delivered wine to the audience (4)
24 Unfair using force to dismiss one for duck (5)
25 Every carriage includes, say, hollow seat to relax (4,5)
27 Take charge of island surrounded by very rebellious Middle Easterners (6)
28 Bird, not very hungry, nibbling tip of leaf (8)
29 Article in sorcerer's control (6)
30 Utensil is shelling peas, not oysters primarily (8)

Down

1 One carrying ale (6)
2 Are old dances a challenge? (6)
3 Animal with one piercing, curved horn (5)
4 Champion, during breaks, gets hard liquor (7)
6 Obsessive KrisKross welcomed by sage, treated to get freedom from pain (9)
7 Playing back movie's enjoyable - missing the end is difficult (2,6)
8 Fox in ground chasing prisoner (8)
11 Stop consuming drug for support (4)
15 Leader having self-confidence to retain record and carry on (4,5)
17 Rogue who's approaching park around display area (8)
18 Oscar in Bhutan runs, following a fast route (8)
20 Opponents in House often upset (4)
21 Decoration made from flower seen around estate regularly (7)
22 Couple of leaders in Canada like coarse fabric (6)
23 Continue without stopping monster (6)
26 See 19 Across

SUDOKU

		4			3	2		1
				8				4
9			7			8	6	
5			2			4		
			1		6			
		9			4			7
	9	2			7			3
7				6				
3		1	8			9		

No.SS6127 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	P		P		U		A		O		S		B	
F	I	R	E		N	E	W	S	L	E	T	T	E	R
	R		N		F		O		D		E		E	
M	A	R	I	N	A		L	I	F	E	R	A	F	T
	T		T		I				L		O			
T	E	L	E	G	R	A	M		A	L	L	O	W	S
	F		N				A		M				I	
F	L	A	T		A	S	I	D	E		T	E	L	L
	A				S		Z				I		D	
E	G	G	C	U	P		E	X	P	E	C	T	E	D
			R		I				O		K		B	
R	E	H	E	A	R	S	E		L	A	S	T	E	D
	R		A		I		M		I		O		E	
C	O	S	M	O	N	A	U	T	S		F	A	S	T
	S		Y		S		S		H		F		T	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	6	9	2	3	1	7	8	5
7	3	5	4	8	9	1	6	2
2	1	8	6	5	7	4	3	9
5	9	7	3	1	2	8	4	6
3	2	6	8	9	4	5	7	1
1	8	4	5	7	6	9	2	3
6	5	2	9	4	8	3	1	7
8	7	3	1	2	5	6	9	4
9	4	1	7	6	3	2	5	8

FAITH

Almanac reading, a must

Our lives are based on time. Even god grants us everything based on that. Life and death are also time-bound. For eons, time has been calculated based on the movement of the planets and the stars, including the sun and the moon. These movements are calculated and codified into the annual almanac, the reading of which on the New Year is both mandatory and auspicious, said B. Damodara Dikshithar.

One may wonder if one should trust horoscopes and forecast of the future. Our rishis made a deep study of the movement of the planets, stars and through their expertise, there is a tremendous wealth of knowledge. There are two aspects to forecast: one is astronomy and the other is an individual's horoscope, based on the exact detailing of a person's birth and the corresponding planetary and other relevant movements. While astronomical forecast will never go wrong, forecast for an individual could go wrong due to various personal factors and actions or wrongful entry of birth date, time and other factors. As per the almanac, the new year (from April 14, 2024 to April 13, 2025), called Krodhi, is generally expected to be benevolent towards all. One should pray for good beginnings, offer fruits and flowers to God and consume neem-jaggery paste, to remind one that life will be bitter sweet.

NOT QUITE DONE

Haven't thought about retirement, want to play 2027 ODI WC: Rohit

EMMANUAL YOGINI

India captain Rohit Sharma said he plans to continue playing for a few more years. "I haven't really thought about retirement. But, I don't know where life takes you. I am playing well at the moment. I really want to win that World Cup," he said in a YouTube chat show *Breakfast With Champions*.

SURPRISE ELEMENT

'There is no ego in T20 format, it's important to bowl slower balls'

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Jasprit Bumrah said he is willing to explore options such as slower balls to avoid being a one-trick pony. "You don't always have to bowl a yorker. There is no ego in this format. You can bowl 145kmph, but sometimes it is important to bowl slower balls," Bumrah said on Thursday.

EASY-PEASY

It's in my muscle memory, says Suryakumar on his array of shots

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Suryakumar Yadav attributed the audacious array of shots he plays to muscle memory and constant practice. "I just try to play the field. I practice these shots. It is in my muscle memory," Suryakumar said. "Whenever I go into bat, I always try to see how I can change the game and how I can control it with my abilities," he added.

WICKET-TAKER

Not worried about Rabada's form: PBKS bowling coach Langeveldt

K. MURALI KUMAR

Punjab Kings bowling coach Charl Langeveldt said that he was not worried by Kagiso Rabada's performance in the Indian Premier League. "I think he's in a positive mindset. We want him to take wickets for us. He's a wicket-taker for us. I won't be worried about him," Langeveldt said.

Kuldeep and Fraser-McGurk fashion Capitals' second win

The left-armer spinner's triple strike jolts LSG's top-order before Badoni's brisk, unbeaten fifty rescues the team; the Aussie batter's dashing half-century and his 77-run partnership with Pant puts the Delhi side on the victory path

IPL-17

Shayan Acharya
LUCKNOW

A day after he turned 22, Jake Fraser-McGurk showed the world why he is considered one of the destructive batters in white-ball cricket.

Featuring in his maiden Indian Premier League fixture on Friday, the youngster from Australia looked at ease en route to his 55 (35b, 2x4, 5x6) as Delhi Capitals defeated Lucknow Super Giants by six wickets to bring its campaign back on track.

After the home team rode on a late flourish by Ayush Badoni (55 n.o., 35b, 5x4,1x6) and Arshad Khan to add 73-runs – the highest eighth-wicket stand in the history of the tournament – and put on 167 for seven, Fraser-McGurk and captain Rishabh Pant took things in their stride, forged a 77-run partnership for the third wicket and paved the way for Delhi's much-needed win.

Coming on the back of a memorable Big Bash League stint, Fraser-McGurk began with a bang – hitting Yash Thakur for a six – at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium, and made the most of a reprieve to gallop past a half-century and put Delhi Capitals within touching distance of its second win before being dismissed by Naveen-ul-Haq.

After David Warner fell early and Prithvi Shaw's quickfire innings came to an abrupt end, the seasoned Pant played the role of an anchor, allowing Fraser-McGurk to play freely. Though Pant looked set to bring up his third fifty of the season, he fell nine runs short after being stumped by his LSG counterpart K.L. Rahul off Ravi Bishnoi. With Fraser-McGurk and Pant setting the stage for Delhi's win, Shai Hope and Tristan Stubbs completed the formalities with 11 balls to spare.

Stellar shows: Kuldeep returned to action in style after a fortnight and Fraser-McGurk caught the eye on his IPL debut. SANDEEP SAXENA

Back with a bang

While the Capitals batters played their roles to perfection, Kuldeep Yadav stole the show early on as he returned to action in style with a three for 20 to jolt LSG before Badoni came to the rescue.

Being sidelined for a fortnight due to a groin niggle, the left-arm wrist-spinner claimed two consecutive wickets in his opening over and followed it up with the big scalp of Rahul. With fast bowler Khaleel Ahmed, too, bowling a tidy opening spell, it turned out to be a forgettable outing for LSG.

SCOREBOARD

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS
Quinton de Kock lbw b Khaleel 19 *(13b, 4x4)*, K.L. Rahul c Pant b Kuldeep 39 *(22b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal lbw b Khaleel 3 *(6b)*, Marcus Stoinis c Ishant b Kuldeep 8 *(10b, 1x4)*, Nicholas Pooran b Kuldeep 0 *(1b)*, Deepak Hooda (**Impact Player in place of de Kock**) c Warner b Ishant 10 *(13b)*, Ayush Badoni (not out) 55 *(35b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Krunal Pandya c Pant b Mukesh 3 *(4b)*, Arshad Khan (not out) 20 *(16b, 2x4)*; Extras (lb-3, w-7): 10; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 167.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-28 (de Kock, 2.5 overs), 2-41 (Padikkal, 4.2), 3-66 (Stoinis, 7.3), 4-66 (Pooran, 7.4), 5-77 (Rahul, 9.3), 6-89 (Hooda, 11.5), 7-94 Krunal, 12.6).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Khaleel 4-0-41-2, Ishant 4-0-36-1, Mukesh 4-0-41-1, Axar 4-0-26-0, Kuldeep 4-0-20-3.

DELHI CAPITALS
Prithvi Shaw c Pooran b Bishnoi 32 *(22b, 6x4)*, David Warner b Yash Thakur 8 (9b, 1x4), Jake Fraser-McGurk c Arshad b Naveen 55 *(35b, 2x4, 5x6)*, Rishabh Pant st Rahul b Bishnoi 41 *(24b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Tristan Stubbs (not out) 15 *(9b, 1x6)*, Shai Hope (not out) 11 *(10b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-7): 8; Total (for four wkts. in 18.1 overs): 170.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-24 (Warner, 3.3), 2-63 (Shaw, 6.6), 3-140 (Fraser-McGurk, 14.4), 4-146 (Pant, 15.3).

SUPER GIANTS BOWLING
Arshad 3.1-0-34-0, Naveen 3-0-24-1, Yash Thakur 4-0-31-1, Krunal 3-0-45-0, Bishnoi 4-0-25-2, Stoinis 1-0-10-0.

Toss: LSG. **PoM:** Kuldeep.
DC won by six wickets with 11 balls to spare.

Next assignment

LSG: April 14 vs **KKR** Kolkata, 3.30 p.m.

DC: April 17 vs **GT** Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

Focus on the opening batters as PBKS hosts RR

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
MULLANPUR

As Punjab Kings takes on Rajasthan Royals in its second straight home game at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh international cricket stadium here on Saturday, it would want its openers to come good in the PowerPlay.

Out of form

Jonny Bairstow and Shikhar Dhawan haven't quite fired the way, say, the Sunrisers Hyderabad openers have and that's been a cause for concern for the Kings.

Batting coach Sanjay Bangar was seen having a chat with them on Thursday, and Bairstow, facing throwdowns from Bangar on Friday, was seen smoking a couple of straight sixes.

Bowling coach Charl Langeveldt on Friday said that he expected the big foreign signings who've been patchy so far – Bairstow, Liam Livingstone, and Sam Curran – to "hopefully turn it around sooner than later."

In terms of bowling, Kings had its best PowerPlay of the season in its last match versus SRH and would want to keep it up against RR.

Livingstone was seen practising big-hitting against the spinners in the nets on Friday. Langeveldt said the decision on his inclusion would be taken on the match-day.

Yashasvi Jaiswal was the first to face throwdowns in the Royals nets and his team would just hope for him to score big on Saturday.

Injury update

RR spinner Keshav Maharaj on Friday said that Sandeep Sharma was carrying a niggle and didn't provide an update on the pacer's fitness.

If he is fit and available, he would undoubtedly be an asset for the Royals in the death overs.

For Kings, much would depend on the bowlers restricting the power-packed Royals batting.

Raring to go: PBKS will want its star all-rounder Sam Curran to fire. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	5	4	1	8	0.871
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	3	1	6	1.528
Chennai Super Kings	5	3	2	6	0.666
Lucknow Super Giants	5	3	2	6	0.436
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	3	2	6	0.344
Gujarat Titans	6	3	3	6	-0.637
Mumbai Indians	5	2	3	4	-0.073
Punjab Kings	5	2	3	4	-0.196
Delhi Capitals	6	2	4	4	-0.975
Royal Challengers	6	1	5	2	-1.124

After the LSG-DC match on April 12

Langeveldt said the decision on Livingstone's inclusion will be taken on the match-day

Today's match

PBKS vs RR
Mullanpur, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 26
PBKS 11 | RR 15

PREVIOUS MEETING
RR won by four wickets, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA

If you have good advice, there's nothing wrong with passing it on, says Maharaj

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
MULLANPUR

Talking about the positive atmosphere within the team, where inputs not just from captain Sanju Samson but also from other experienced players are being passed around, Rajasthan Royals (RR) spinner Keshav Maharaj on Friday said Jos Buttler's inputs have been significant in their team winning four out of its five matches so far in the ongoing season of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

"I think you always want leaders within the team. Obviously, Sanju *bhai* is the leader of the team and he entrusts certain people.

"And I think it's always good in a cricket team whether you're young or old, if you have good advice, there's nothing wrong with passing on the information because you never know when it may help.

"Obviously, Jos, he's captained his country in World Cups. So, I think bouncing off his knowledge and helping the bowlers has really shown in this tournament. I mean, winning four out of five games is a good start to the tournament.

"And I think the bowlers like having him at a mid off and mid on, just so that they can lean on him when they need advice," he said on the eve of his team's IPL match versus Punjab Kings (PBKS).

Positive atmosphere: Inputs from experienced players are being passed around at Rajasthan Royals. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Mumbai Indians' Kishan says he is focusing only on the controllables

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

He may have returned to the Wankhede Stadium almost a month ago for the Indian Premier League but for the first time in months, Ishan Kishan would have probably felt like he was at home.

It was his swashbuckling 34-ball 69 at the top that set the tone for MI's run chase against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. It kind of brought Kishan, the diminutive dasher, into headlines for his on-field exploits.

Seldom did he make a public appearance all through the first quarter of the year. In fact, when he was missing in action even from the Ranji Trophy, it resulted in Kishan being omitted from the BCCI's central contracts list.

"I was practising as well as I could. I had taken off and when you take an off, a lot of it gets spoken about on social media," he said during a media interaction on Thursday.

"What we can do is that if you have taken time for yourself, use it the best way possible for yourself. I have learned that you do not have to add pressure on yourself about things that are not in your hands. You have to figure out the controllables and the uncontrollables."

The usage of sporting jargon by a usually bubbly and chirpy Kishan may surprise a few but his onslaught against a toothless RCB attack was on the expected lines.

With so much water having flown under the river ever since he left India's squad midway through the tour to South Africa last December, Kishan insisted he had "nothing to prove to anyone" and he is doing his best to segregate between helping MI qualify for the playoffs and staking a claim in India's T20 World Cup squad.

Difficult period: Kishan said that a lot was spoken about him on social media when he took some time off. EMMANUAL YOGINI

INBRIEF

Sathiyan and Manika's Olympics hopes almost ends

The Indian pair of G. Sathiyan and Manika Batra lost tamely to Javen Choong and Karen Lyne of Malaysia 9-11, 9-11, 9-11, 11-7, 8-11 in the Stage-2 quarterfinals of the World mixed doubles Olympic qualification table tennis event in Havirov, Czech Republic, on Friday. With the defeat, the Indian duo's chances of making it to the Paris Olympics have more or less ended.

Barren day for Indian grapplers at Asian wrestling

Indian freestyle wrestlers could not win a medal on the second day of the Asian wrestling championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Friday. Akash Dahiya (61kg) was rolled over by Mongolian Enkhbold Enkhbat with a leg-lace technique and suffered a 18-7 defeat in his bronze medal match, while in another bronze medal match, Anirudh was pinned by Bahrain's Shamil Sharipov with 1:44 minutes left. Yash (74kg), Sandeep Singh (86kg) and Vinay (92kg) exited early.

Arjun-Jeevan combo advances to semifinals

Arjun Kadhe and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan beat Gijs Brouwer and Aidan Mchugh 6-3, 7-6(4) in the doubles quarterfinals of the $82,000 Challenger tennis in Cuernavaca, Mexico, on Friday.

Other result: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Rithvik Bollipalli & Niki Poonacha bt Nick Chappell & Hans Verdugo (Mex) 7-6(7), 6-4.

LIVE TELECAST

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5.00, 7.30 & 10 p.m.

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Sunday)

ISL: Sports 18-1(SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 7.30 p.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema, 7.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7.00 & 10 p.m.

Gukesh succumbs to time pressure, Nepomniachtchi regains sole lead

The Indian shares the second spot with compatriot Praggnanandhaa and Caruana; Gujarthi plays out a draw; mixed fortunes for Indian women

CANDIDATES CHESS

Sports Bureau

D. Gukesh suffered a setback in the seventh round of the Candidates chess tournament, losing to France's Alireza Firouzja at Toronto on Thursday. His defeat left defending champion Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia as the sole leader at the half-way stage ahead of a rest day.

Nepomniachtchi, who drew with second seed Hikaru Nakamura of the United States, has 4.5 points. Gukesh, the top-seeded American Fabiano Caruana, and Praggnanandhaa are second with four points each.

Leader's look: Nepomniachtchi intently watches Gukesh battling it out against Firouzja. FIDE

The game between Praggnanandhaa and Caruana ended in a draw. The other Indian in the fray, Vidit Gujrathi, split the point with Azerbaijan's Nijat Abasov.

In the women's tournament, China's Tan Zhongyi is still in the sole lead position. After drawing the Russian Aleksandra Goryachkina, she has five points. She is half-a-point ahead of the Russian.

Koneru Humpy drew with Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk, while R. Vaishali lost to Lei Tingjie. Both the Indians are on 2.5 points.

Three draws

Lie was the day's only winner in the women's tournament, as the other three games were drawn. After beating Vaishali. the Chinese player said, "I think the game was very complicated, and at some point in the opening, I was a little worse. Generally, I think this game was not so good."

Gukesh had to pay dearly for his mistakes under time pressure and resigned on the 40th move, facing checkmate against Firouzja's double rook and knight.

The game between Caurana and Praggnanandhaa wasn't as tense an affair. They signed peace after 41 moves in an equal ending featuring rook, bishop and knight.

The results (seventh round):
Open: Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 3.5 drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE) 4.5; Fabiano Caruana (USA) 4 drew with R. Praggnanandhaa 4; Alireza Firouzja (Fra) 2.5 bt D. Gukesh 4; Nijat Abasov (Aze) 2 drew with Vidit Gujrathi 3.5.

Women: Kateryna Lagno (FIDE) 4 drew drew Nurgyul Salimova (Bul) 3; Aleksandra Goryachkina (FIDE) 4.5 drew with Tan Zhongyi (Chn) 5; Anna Muzychuk (Ukr) 2.5 drew with Koneru Humpy 2.5; Lei Tingjie (Chn) 4 bt R. Vaishali 2.5.

Mary Kom steps down as Chef-de-Mission for Paris Games

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Olympic bronze medalist and six times World champion boxer M.C. Mary Kom on Friday stepped down as the Chef-de-Mission for the Indian contingent at the Paris Olympics citing "personal reasons". A replacement is expected to be named by the IOA soon.

Thanking the Indian Olympic Association for placing its faith in her, Mary admitted it was embarrassing but was left with no choice.

Embarrassing

"I consider it an honour to serve my country in every way possible and I was mentally prepared for it. However, I regret that I will not be able to uphold the prestigious responsibility

Mary Kom. FILE PHOTO

and would like to resign, owing to personal reasons. It is embarrassing to retreat from a commitment, which I seldom do, but I am left with no choice," Mary wrote in her letter to IOA president P.T. Usha. Usha confirmed receiving Mary's letter.

Mary, who is also the chairperson of the IOA's Athletes Commission, was named as the Chef-de-Mission three weeks back and had acknowledged and accepted the same.

"We are sad that Olympic medal winning boxer and Chairperson of the IOA Athletes Commission Mary Kom has stepped down citing personal reasons. We respect her decision and her privacy. I shall make appropriate consultations and soon make an announcement about the replacement for Mary Kom," Usha said in a statement, adding she had also spoken to Mary about her decision.

"I completely understand her request and respect her decision. I have also conveyed to her that she will always have my own support and that of IOA. I also request everyone to respect the legendary boxer's privacy," she added.

India's poor run in Australia continues with fourth loss

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
PERTH

India continued its dismal show in the crucial tour Down Under, losing 1-3 against Australia to suffer its fourth consecutive defeat in the five-match men's hockey Test series, here on Friday.

Contrary to the final result, it was a much-improved performance from the Indians but the Kookaburras were simply too strong.

All four goals in the match, which started 40 minutes late due to lightning, came from penalty corners.

India took the lead in the 12th minute through skipper Harmanpreet

Tough day at the office: Australia rallied home after India took the lead in the 12th minute. HOCKEY INDIA

Singh but Jeremy Hayward's (19th, 47th) brace and Jack Welch (54th) strike handed Australia yet another win in the series.

India was decimated 1-5 in the opening Test, while it lost the second and third Tests 2-4 and 1-2 respectively.

India had its chances as well in the form of three penalty corners in the last four minutes but wasted the opportunities.

The final Test of the series will be played on Saturday.

The result: Australia 3 (Jeremy Hayward 19 & 47, Jack Welch 54) bt India 1 (Harmanpreet Singh 12).

TN tops boys' and girls' sections

Sports Bureau

Tamil Nadu and Punjab topped Group A & B, respectively, in the boys' section at the end of the league stage of the 38th Youth Nationals Basketball Championship in Puducherry on Friday.

In the girls' section, Kerala and Tamil Nadu topped Group A and B respectively.

The results: Boys: Tamil Nadu 75 bt Haryana 74; Kerala 81 bt Uttar Pradesh 57; Rajasthan 93 bt Madhya Pradesh 55; Punjab 82 bt Odisha 58.

Girls: Tamil Nadu 67 bt Karnataka 60; Uttar Pradesh 65 bt Telangana 62; Kerala 73 bt Maharashtra 62; Rajasthan 58 bt Delhi 54.

Blasters down Hyderabad, get back to winning ways

ISL

Sports Bureau

Kerala Blasters FC defeated Hyderabad FC 3-1 in an Indian Super League match at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad on Friday.

The result: Hyderabad FC 1 (Victor 88) lost to Kerala Blasters FC 3 (Aimen 34, Sakai 51, Nihal 81).

India gets the better of Korea in penultimate league match in Billie Jean King Cup

Pride of success: The architects of India's 2-1 win over Korea, Prarthana, Ankita and Rutuja in China on Friday.

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

The Indian team continued with its strong performance and beat Korea 2-1 in its penultimate league match of the Asia-Oceania group-1 Billie Jean King Cup women's tennis tournament on the clay courts of Changsha, China, on Friday.

Once again, Rutuja Bhosale gave India a robust start by beating Sohyun Park for the loss of four games. Ankita Raina was beaten in the second singles by Sujeong Jang in straight sets, but combined with Prarthana Thombare to win the doubles.

The result (league): India bt Korea 2-1 (Rutuja Bhosale bt Sohyun Park 6-2, 6-2; Ankita Raina lost to Sujeong Jang 2-6, 3-6; Ankita & Prarthana Thombare bt Kim Dabin & Sohyun Park 6-4, 6-4).

Panghal makes a comeback amidst drastic changes for Olympic qualifier in Bangkok

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Following the Indian boxers' disappointing performance in the Olympic qualifying event in Busto Arsizio, Italy, where they could not win a single quota place, the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has changed six boxers in the squad for the second World Olympic qualifier in Bangkok, the last qualifying event, from May 25 to June 2.

After BFI's assessment, done by coaches Dmitry Dmitruk, C.A. Kuttappa and Dharmendra Yadav, former World championships silver medallist Amit Panghal, who won a gold medal in the Strandja Memorial event in Sofia in February last, was the biggest name to make a comeback. He replaces Worlds bronze medallist Deepak Bhoria in 51kg.

Former World junior champion Sachin Siwach Jr., another Strandja gold medallist, has taken the place of another Worlds bronze medallist Mohammad Hussamuddin in 57kg.

The biggest surprise was the absence of seasoned boxer Shiva Thapa, who placed third in 63.5kg. Abinash Jamwal emerged as the top boxer in this category, followed by Vanshaj, who managed to recover from a bout of tuberculosis.

Young boxer Abhimanyu Loura, a former National champion, took the number one slot in 80kg.

Worlds bronze medallist Nishant Dev (71kg), who lost in the quarterfinals and narrowly missed an Olympic quota place in Italy, Sanjeet (92kg) and Narender Berwal (+92kg) retained their top spots.

Among women, Ankushita Boro, who represented the country in 66kg in Italy, came down to 60kg and claimed the number one position ahead of Jaismine Lamboria.

Arundhati Choudhary was the best in 66kg.

It is learnt that stress was given to boxers' ability to win matches in international events. The boxers will travel to Bangkok on May 10 to train there prior to the competition.

So far, four women boxers – Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg), Parveen Hooda (57kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) – have won quota places in the Paris Olympics.

The squad: Men: Amit Panghal (51kg), Sachin Siwach Jr. (57kg), Abhinash Jamwal (63.5kg), Nishant Dev (71kg), Abhimanyu Loura (80kg), Sanjeet (92kg), Narender Berwal (+92kg).
Women: Ankushita Boro (60kg), Arundhati Choudhary (66kg).

DeChambeau in the lead as rain affects opening round

Great start: DeChambeau muscled his way to a seven-under 65. GETTY IMAGES

THE MASTERS

Reuters
AUGUSTA

The Masters was poised for a second round thriller ith LIV Golf standard bearer Bryson DeChambeau sitting one shot clear of top-ranked Scottie Scheffler and Tiger Woods searching for some of his old major magic.

A marathon day at Augusta National began early on Friday with 27 golfers pulling double duty by finishing up weather-delayed first rounds before heading right back out onto a sun bathed layout. With the first round complete, the stage was set for plenty of golfing drama up and down the leaderboard.

DeChambeau used a sizzling burst of late birdies to muscle his way to seven-under 65 on Thursday while Scheffler also rode a late birdie blitz to card a bogey-free six-under-par 66.

Masters debutant Nicolai Hojgaard of Denmark and World No. 11 Max Homa were two shots behind the leader.

World No. 2 Rory McIlroy, in a high-profile group with Scheffler and Olympic champion Xander Schauffele, was on 71 as he makes a 10th attempt at completing a career Grand Slam of Majors.

Defending champion Jon Rahm had a lacklustre opening one-over 73.

The winner of five Green Jackets Woods finished opening round on one-over 73.

Leading scores: 65: Bryson DeChambeau (USA); **66:** Scottie Scheffler (USA); **67:** Max Homa (USA), Nicolai Hoejgaard (Den); **68:** Danny Willett (Eng); 69: - Cameron Davis (Aus), Ryan Fox (NZ).

Seasoned thrower tests positive

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

A seasoned and well-known thrower has tested positive for clomiphene, a drug used to treat infertility in women.

Sources said the athlete, a former Asian Games gold medallist, was tested out of competition on February 16 in Gurugram and returned a positive result for clomiphene. She has not been provisionally suspended and is allowed to compete.

According to USA Anti-Doping Agency's (USADA's) substance profile, to use clomiphene the "athletes may apply for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE), which gives them permission to take a prohibited substance or use a prohibited method for a specified time period.

"Similar to other drugs, clomiphene and its metabolites may persist in an athlete's body well after treatment has been completed, so it's important that an athlete apply for a TUE for clomiphene in advance of using this medication, regardless of the reasons for its prescription and use."

It is not clear whether the thrower has applied for TUE.

This is the third time the athlete has tested positive in her career spanning more than two decades.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ▪ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ▪ 2417580 ▪ Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE
VELLORE, TN - 632 002
Email: registrar@cmcvellore.ac.in

Medical PG (MD / MS), Diploma in Clinical Pathology & M.Ch. Neuro Surgery (Broad Specialty - Post MBBS) Courses Admissions 2024

Application form can be accessed & submitted online through the College Website: https://admissions.cmcvellore.ac.in/ till 13th June 2024

Please refer to Medical PG Admission Bulletin (available at our website) for course details, eligibility criteria etc.

All courses and admissions to our College are subject to applicable regulations by University / Government / National Medical Commission / Court.

REGISTRAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

The **General Public** are **CAUTIONED** not to be lured by any person offering admission to any of the courses conducted by CMC Vellore. The college will not be responsible for any candidates or parents dealing with such person / persons.

Civil and a criminal court proceeding will be taken up against any person who holds out promises and also uses the institution's intellectual properties.

PLEASE NOTE: WE DO NOT ADMIT STUDENTS THROUGH AGENTS OR AGENCIES.

CMC VELLORE ADMINISTRATION

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHREYA Chakraborti, D/o Late Dr.P K Banerjee, R/a No.C-52, Diamond District, Old Airport Road, Domlur, Bangalore-560008 have changed my name to Shreya Banerjee vide affidavit dt: 12.04.24 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, B'lore

I, MURTI Davi mother of Bijender Singh Rathee presently residing at SMQ No.229/10, Command Hospital, Airforce, Bengaluru-560007 have changed my name from Murti Davi to Murti Devi vide affidavit dated 08-04-2024 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE COMMERCIAL COURT, ERNAKULAM
Arb(OP). No. of 2022

Petitioner : Laxmi J Pai, aged 40 years. W/o K.V Janardana Pai, Residing at Yasoram Ojus Apartment, Mullasser Canal Road, Ernakulam, Kochi-682031

Respondent No.2 and 9 :
2. Sri. K.G Sanjayan, aged about 62 years, S/o KN Govinda Pai, KNG Brothers, Behind Devi Temple, Cherthala-688524, Currently residing at Flat No.2 Ground Floor, Manjolia Block, Brigade Millenium, Puttenahalli Main Road, J.P Nagar, 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078.
9. Smt. Uma S. Pai, aged about 62 years, W/o K.G Sanajyan, KNG Sons, Behind Devi Temple, Cherthala 688524 Currently residing at Flat No.2 Ground Floor, Manjolia Block, Brigade Millenium, Puttenahalli Main Road, J.P Nagar, 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078

To the above named 2nd respondent and 9 respondent

Whereas the above petitioner has filed the above unnumbered petition against you for setting aside the award dated 24.12.2021 of the Sole Arbitrator, Adv K.P. Balasubramanian. The above suit is posted for hearing on 01.06.2024. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Honourable Court in the above case either in person or through counsel at 11 AM on that day, otherwise the case will be decided in your absence.

Dated this the 30th day of September 2023

By order of
A. Balagopalan, Advocate

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, AT BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House Building, Raja Bhavan Road, Bengaluru- 560 001
IN THE MATTER OF
O. A. No. 356/2023

Between
ICICI Bank Ltd., ...Applicant
Versus
Sri Meenakshi Earth Movers and Ors. ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT No. 3 AND 4 UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

DEFENDANTS No. 3 and 4
1. Smt. Devi
Wife of Sri Prabhakaran K.
No. 69, Govindappa Layout, Chikkanagamangala Village, Huskur post Sarjapura Hobli Bangalore- 560 099
M. 9964278200
PAN No. BFNPP9653M
2. C.G.Vijay
Son of Chinnaraj Pandiyappan
Aged about 31 years
No. 86/1, 2nd Cross, Near Rajarajeswhari Temple, Bengaluru South Karnataka-560 010
PAN No. ADSVP6243P

WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 24,49,288.90/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Eight Point Ninety Paise Only)** together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on **01/08/2024** at **11:00 A.M.** in person or by pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this **05th** day of **April, 2024.**

By order of the Tribunal
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bengaluru

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, AT BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House Building, Raja Bhavan Road, BENGALURU- 560 001
IN THE MATTER OF
O. A. No. 1066/2023

Between
ICICI Bank Ltd., ...Applicant
Versus
Mr. Mahadeva E and Ors ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT No. 1 AND 2 UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

DEFENDANTS No.1 and 2.
1. Mr. Mahadeva E.
S/o Mrs. Lakshmamma, Aged about 28 years, Residing at-175, Nosenoor, Endluvadi Post, Jigani, Anekal, Bangalore- 560 105
PAN No: FPGPM2339J,
PH. No. 8971772887
2. Mrs. Lakshmamma,
W/o Gundappa,
Aged about 65 years,
Residing at- 175, Nosenoor, Endluvadi Post, Jigani, Anekal, Bangalore- 560 105
VOTER ID NO. YER1318831
PH. No. 9148042677

WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 34,33,465.98/- (Thirty-Four Lakhs Thirty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Five and Ninety-Eight Only)** together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on **01/08/2024** at **11.00 A.M.** in person or by pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this **01st day of April, 2024.**

By order of the Tribunal
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal- II, Bengaluru

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, AT BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House Building, Raja Bhavan Road, Bengaluru- 560 001
IN THE MATTER OF
O. A. No. 1065/2023

Between
ICICI Bank Ltd., ...Applicant
Versus
Mrs. Remya Rajan and Ors. ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT No. 1 AND 2 UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

DEFENDANTS No. 1 and 2.
1. Mrs. Remya Rajan.
D/o. Kunchattu Ramankutty Rajan, W/o. Chatiendra Pratap Singh, Aged about 48 years, Residing at No.12, Sandhya, 2nd Floor, Door No. C-1, 21st 'C', 4th Cross, Jangamappa Road, Ejipura, Near Rama Temple, Bangalore- 560 047
PAN No. ALWPR7869R.
PH. 9591056974.
Email ID: Remya.kunchattu@gmail.com
2. Mr. Chaitendra Pratap Singh
H/o Remya Rajan,
Aged about 47 years,
Residing at No.12, Sandhya, 2nd Floor, Door No. C-1, 21st 'C', 4th Cross, angamappa Road, Ejipura, Near Rama Temple, Bangalore- 560 047
PAN No. BQEPS4126G,
PH. NO. 9844745185
Email ID: cspratap@gmail.com
PAN No. AHEPV9293R.
PH; 07331101574,
PH. NO. 9686796030

WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 62,35,164.37/- (Rupees Sixty-Two Lakhs Thirty-Five Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Four and Thirty-Seven Paise Only)** together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on **05/08/2024** at **11:00 A.M.** in person or by pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this **05th** day of **April, 2024.**

By order of the Tribunal
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bengaluru

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, AT BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House Building, Raja Bhavan Road, Bengaluru- 560 001
IN THE MATTER OF
O. A. No. 1064/2023

Between
ICICI Bank Ltd., ...Applicant
Versus
Mr. Mohammed Idrees & other ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT No. 1 AND 2 UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

DEFENDANTS No. 1 and 2 :
1. Mohammed Idrees.
Son of Asif Mohammed,
Aged about 35 years,
Residing at No. 6, 2nd Cross, Arogyamma Layout, Kadugondanahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka-560 005
PAN No. APPPM3734D,
PH; 9986766042.
2. Nikhat Tabassum
Daughter of Noor Ahmed,
Aged about 34 years,
Residing at No. 6, 2nd Cross, Arogyamma Layout, Kadugondanahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka-560 005
PAN No. BAUPT8981P,
PH; 9986766042.

WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and financial Institution Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.31,08,116.21/- (Rupees Thirty-One Lakhs Eight Thousand one Hundred Sixteen and Twenty-One Paise only)** together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on **05/08/2024** at **11.00 A.M** in person or by pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this 05th day of April,2024.

By order of the Tribunal
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bengaluru

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001
Tel:080-29604556,29566556,29565353, E-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com

SPLOCA/Equinox/01/2024-25 **Dated:10.04.2024**

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR CALLING CLAIMS RELATING TO M/S EQUINOX LAND PROJECT INDIA & ITS GROUP ENTITIES

Public Notice under Section 7(2) of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors In Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE) calling for submission of claims from the secured creditors and depositors of M/S EQUINOX LAND PROJECT INDIA & ITS GROUP ENTITIES

Claim forms will be issued at the office of the Special Officer, & Competent Authority, (IMA & Other KPID Cases) 4th Floor, podium block, Vishveshwaraiah Tower, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Road, Bengaluru-560001 to the depositor/authorized representative/nominee and in the absence of the nominee, the power of attorney holder on production of identity proof and proof of investment such as original copies of Bonds, official letter and PoA documents.

Starting date of issuing claim applications : **15.04.2024 10.00am,** Last date for submission of claim applications : **14.05.2024 5.30pm**

Documents To Be Produced For Verification:

1. Original ID- Aadhar, PAN/Epic with xerox for attestation. **2.** Bank pass sheets 2 months prior to date of investment to till date in - M/s Equinox Land project India & Its Group Entities, duly attested by the bank manager to be furnished, **3.**Copy of passbook with copy of pages showing KYC. **4.**Original Bonds / Agreements / Notarized Affidavits/Other Substitute Documents issued. **5.** General power of attorney in the case of Authorized Agent and statutory documents shall be produced in the original. **6.** Where copies are allowed as support documents, either ink signed attested clear xerox copy of every page shall be provided or original shall be provided alongside xerox copy for attestation by concerned officer. Scans / WhatsApp copies are not acceptable. **7.** Passbook Issued by FE**. 8.** As per Section 7(4) and 7(5) of the Act, the secured creditors are required to value the security before the expiry period of 1 month from 10/04/2024 and send it along with their claim statements, failing which the competent authority shall get the valuation of the security to the best of its judgement which shall be binding on the secured creditors.

In case of death or hospitalization of the depositor, his nominees/heirs have to submit the following documents as proof for their identity and investment.

Sl. No.	Depositors/ Depositor's Nominees	Documents to be submitted.
1.	**Depositors**	Depositors should submit the documents duly notarised with Notary/Gazetted Officer/and with self-declaration.
2.	**Nominee**	**1.** Death certificate of the depositor. **2.** Family tree (To be obtained from Tahsildar) **3.** Nominee should self-attest the above documents.
3.	**Legal heirs**	**1.** Death Certificate of the depositor **2.** Family tree (To be obtained from the Tahsildar) **3.** Death certificate of the specific nominee (Specific Nomination of the Death Certificate) **4.** Legal heir's Certificate – Court Order **5.** Legal Heir should submit self-attested above documents. **6.** Consent from other Legal heirs
4.	**PoA – Power of Attorney**	**1.** Documents supporting hospitalization of the depositor. (In case of critical illness, a report from Medical Officer should be submitted) **2.** Apostilled copy citizen card and passport in case of depositor residing outside India. **3.** For Sl. No. (1) and (2) Notarised Power of Attorney Certificate should be submitted. **4.** POA holder should submit self-attested above documents.
5.	**Guardian of minor**	**1.**Death certificate of depositor. **2.** Document regarding appointment of guardian. **3.** Self-attested documents of above.

Applicants submitting the claim applications should submit the below mentioned documents as proof of investments in **M/s Equinox Land Project India Limited & its group of entities.**

Sl. No.	Depositors/ Depositor's Nominees	Documents to be submitted.
1.	**Savings Deposit**	**1.** Copy of front page of passbook with photograph. **2.** Savings Deposit Passbook issued by the financial establisment **3.** Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.
2.	**Fixed Deposit**	**1.**Copy of front page of passbook with photograph. **2.** Deposit Bond/ Certificate/Fixed Deposit Certificate/Other **3.** Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.
3.	**Cumulative Deposit**	**1.**Copy of front page of passbook with photograph. **2.** Cumulative Deposit Certificate **3.** Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.
4.	**Recurring Deposit**	**1.**Copy of front page of passbook with photograph. **2.** Recurring Deposit Passbook issued by the financial establishment **3.** Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.
5.	**MES Deposit**	**1.** Copy of front page of passbook with photograph. **2.** MES Deposit Passbook issued by the said financial establishment **3.**Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.

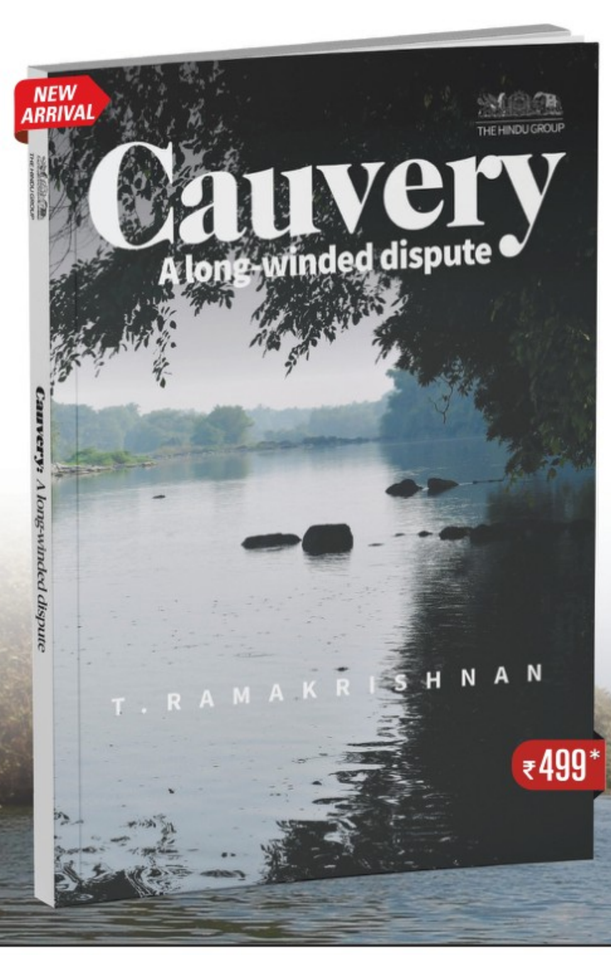
1. Any application received after the last date fixed for submission of claims under Section 7(3) of the KPIDFE Act shall not be accepted under the provisions of the Act.
2. Any claim based on concocted documents or forged documents shall be rejected and criminal action will be initiated against such applicants.
3. For more information regarding the procedures for submission of applications, applicants may contact the Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, (IMA & Other KPID) Cases Bengaluru 4th Floor, podium block, Vishveshwaraiah Tower, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Road, Bengaluru-560001
4. Applicants who have invested in more than one scheme in **M/s Equinox Land Project India Limited & its group entities** must submit the claims in separate applications.

DIPR/CP/17/Zen/2024-25

Sd/-
The Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE - IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru, Karnataka

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

THE HINDU GROUP



RESOLVING A VEXATIOUS ISSUE

Finding a solution to the vexatious Cauvery dispute has been a challenge to even the collective wisdom of veteran politicians, seasoned policy makers, experts and farmers. It even tested the strength of India's federal structure at times. After bickering among riparian constituents of the Cauvery basin for over a century and exhausting all avenues, judiciary, finally, had to do the task of apportioning the quantum of water for each riparian party. This book gives an account of how the dispute evolved over the years, especially after the 1924 Agreement between Madras Presidency and the Princely State of Mysore. It also drives home the point that the last word has not yet been said on the issue. Apart from the subject of water sharing, the work discusses challenges facing the river on various fronts, including environment.

AVAILABLE NOW

BOOK YOUR COPY TODAY

*Shipping charges extra | conditions apply

Visit: publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/
For bulk booking, e-mail: bookstore@thehindu.co.in I For enquiries call: 1800 102 1878

M BG-BGE

Lack of goals and a team in flux marked BFC's dismal campaign

The season was the team's worst in the league's history — 22 points from 22 matches — and the outfit didn't win a single away fixture; the side scored just 20 times, another record low

ISL

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Rapid fall: BFC's disappointing show came after competing for the biggest prizes in Indian football last year. K. MURALI KUMAR

Back in December, after Bengaluru FC's 0-4 shellacking at the hands of Mumbai City FC, the then head coach Simon Grayson had said that he saw no leaders on the pitch.

Four months on, the man who took over from Grayson following that harrowing night, Gerard Zaragoza, sang the same tune, after an identical thrashing by Mohun Bagan Super Giant on Thursday.

It was a bold assessment of a side with two Indian National team stalwarts in Sunil Chhetri and Gurpreet Singh Sandhu. But as the twin defeats – two of their heaviest at home – showed, there was more than a kernel of truth in it.

The campaign was BFC's worst in Indian Super League history – 22 points from 22 matches – and the outfit didn't win a single away fixture.

That it came barely 12 months after the club was back challenging for the biggest prizes in Indian football made it more disappointing. It was a penalty shoot-out away from regaining the ISL title last season and then finished runner-up in the Super Cup.

Palpable drift

Grayson first, and then Zaragoza, may have bemoaned the lack of leaders, but the drift has been palpable for a while.

After nearly eight years with just three full-time head coaches, Zaragoza is the team's third in the last three years. And against superior opponents like MCFC and Mohun Bagan, the feeling of being outcoached and out-thought was unmistakable.

The shuffling of playing personnel also left the side undercooked. If the loss of defender Sandesh Jhingan was a body blow, BFC has never quite replaced Brazilian attacker Cleiton Silva, who scored 16 goals across 2020-21 and 2021-22. Ahead of 2023-24, star striker Roy Krishna left after a solitary season.

The development of N. Sivasakthi, who had a breakout year in 2022-23, has also stuttered and Englishman Curtis Main proved a damp squib in his eight appearances. Chhetri, 39, had just five goals to show and the net effect was that BFC scored just 20 times, another record low.

There were indeed a few quality Indian players who came in, like Halicharan Narzary last June and Chinglensana Singh and Nikhil Poojary this January-February. But they were far from fully integrated.

"The reality is that we need to improve," Zaragoza said. "But we are on the [right] way. I am happy with the signings of Indian players. We will work with them individually and collectively during the preseason. I am sure we will be better next season."

SNAPSHOTS

Triple-jumper Rojas pulls out of Paris Olympic Games

CARACAS: Reigning Olympic women's triple jump champion Yulimar Rojas said on Friday she had injured her Achilles tendon and will miss the Paris Games.
Rojas won the silver medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics and then took the Olympic title at the Covid-delayed Tokyo Games in 2021.
She dramatically won the fourth of her outdoor world titles in Budapest last year with her last-round leap.
She is also the world record holder in the event with a jump of 15.74m in 2022.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Hawks United downs Williams FA

Hawks United thrashed Williams FA 5-1 in a KSFA women's 'B' division league football match on Friday.

The results: Women's B div: Offside Trap 2 (Vaishnavi 26, 50) bt Technico FF 0; Hawks United FC 5 (Steffi Catherine 5, 29, S. Shibita 8, Sura Fathima 11, 21) bt Williams FA 1 (Monisha 22); FCBU 3 (Vedika Sree Jay 2, 49, Anuka Satish 39) bt Blues FC 0;
Men's C div: Pioneer 1 (C.S. Vivek 45) bt Shubodaya 0; Rush FC 4 (Gaurav 29, Girik 41, Surmesh 42, Aditya 60) bt BMFC 0; La Sparanza 2 (V. Chandran 12, Leo Patrick 15) bt Blues FA 0.

KBA felicitates players and coaches

Badminton player Ayush Shetty, BWF world junior championship bronze medal winner, was among the shuttlers felicitated by the Karnataka Badminton Association (KBA) on Friday. Ayush received ₹77,770 at an event to felicitate Karnataka players for their performances in the National Games, South Zone Championship and National badminton championships in 2023-24.

H.V. Nithin, who won two medals each at the National Games and Senior National championship, received ₹60,270.

A total of 54 players and coaches were felicitated.

Anand Ekka nets thrice

Anand Ekka's hat-trick helped Rail Wheel Factory Sports Association defeat 5C Sports Club 6-2 in a KSHA super division hockey league match.

The results: Metro HC 2 (Arvind Rajan 13, Suresh Babu 54) bt Delhi PS HC 0; Rail Wheel Factory SA 6 (Sudhir Kujjur 16, Anand Ekka 28, 29, 31, Ranjith 40, 45) bt 5C Sports Club 2 (Suraj 35, Hari Prasad 53).

A TATA Enterprise
TITAN EYE+
Flat 20% Off on 2
Titan, Fastrack and International Brands
Stylish Frames at just ₹750
Includes Boys & Girls Specs ₹1000 | Anti-Reflective Lens ₹500 | Blue Safe Lens ₹750 | Progressive Lens ₹1799
Shop at www.titaneyeplus.com | 4.9/5.0 on Google (7 Lakh Reviews)
Scan for Nearest Store
T&C Apply

MRF ZLX
Surely You can bet on it
FOR SHEER COMFORT AND LONG LIFE, TRUST MRF ZLX RADIALS.
Be it a commute in the city or a stroll through the countryside, MRF ZLX assures you of a comfortable drive. Tubeless radials that are soft enough to cushion every noise, bump and vibration on the road. And tough enough to last long.
MRF ZLX IS AVAILABLE FOR A RANGE OF SEDANS AND HATCHBACKS.
/mrfcorporate | /MRFWorldwide | /mrfcorporate
MRF ZLX is available at all MRF T&S Outlets — MRF FRANCHISEE
MRF TireTok Outlets — MRF TIRETOK — MRF Exclusive Outlets — MRF Exclusive
and Multi-Brand Dealerships — MRF | www.mrftyres.com
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON MRF DEALERSHIP
HOW TO IDENTIFY FALSE AGENCIES PRETENDING TO BE MRF RECRUITMENT AGENCIES FOR TYRE DEALERSHIP?
Any person or institution asking for any kind of payment for an MRF Tyre Dealership is totally false. MRF never asks for any payment for Tyre Dealership. For Dealership Requests, please email to "write2us@mrftyres.com" or scan the QR Code. Approximate investment required for this prestigious and profitable business – Rs.45 to 50 lakhs (expenditure to be incurred only after the candidate visits our District Office and is interviewed by our District Manager). The expenditure required is mainly for getting the shop ready for business and for stocking tyres which will happen only 2 or 3 days before inauguration.